REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF CIVIL JUSTICE

IN THE

PANJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES,

DURING THE YEAR

1871.

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Proceedings of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor, in the Home Department, No. 3909 dated 4th December 1872.

No. 1536.

FROM

J. A. E. MILLER, ESQUIRE,
OFFG. REGISTRAR, CHIEF COURT, PANJAB.

To

LEPEL H. GRIFFIN, ESQUIRE,
OFFG. SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, PANJAB.

Dated Lahore, the 11th June 1872.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Judges to submit the following Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Panjáb during the year 1871.

Chief Court of the Panjab.
CIVIL DEPARTMENT.
PRESENT :—
C. BOULNOIS, ESQ., C. R. LINDSAY, ESQ., P. S. MELVILL, ESQ., } Judges.

2. The arrangement of the Report is the same as last year, except that a few extracts of a general character taken from the Local Reports have been added as appendices.

ORIGINAL SUITS.

3. The number of suits instituted was 218,925, showing an increase of 15,940 or 7·8 per cent. over the previous year. The increase was largest in the following Districts :—

Increase of Suits.

Gujránwála	43	per cent.
Hazárá	29	„
Montgomery	25	„
Gurgáon	23	„
Jhelam	22	„
Pesháwar	20	„

In the Hissár Division, where there was a very large increase in 1870, there was a slight decrease in 1871.

4. In Gujránwála the great increase is in unregistered bonds, and parole debts, or suits by lenders against borrowers, while there is a decrease in such suits as zamíndárs bring against *each other*, such as Betróthal, Pre-emption, Inheritance. The Deputy Commissioner says—"Creditors have become impatient of postponing their claims, and have come into Court in great numbers with bonds taken from their debtor when he was, as it were, purchasing the previous postponement of the claim."

Causes of increase in certain Districts.

5. In Gujrát there was an increase of 15 per cent., and the Deputy Commissioner remarks that it was chiefly under the head of unregistered bonds. This class of cases is superseding, to some extent, claims on mere book debts or balances of account, as the difficulty of proving the latter is much greater. Money-lenders frequently get their debtors to execute a bond for the balance of their accounts, including often a stipulation for heavy interest. The debtor agrees to the term, because the obligation to pay is practically postponed for a long period. In many cases he is in want of money, and the village banker will only lend it on condition that he signs a bond including all outstandings.

6. The increase of cases in Hazárá is attributed to good harvests and the absence of sickness. There was a decrease in this district last year.

7. The causes of increase in Montgomery are not given in the Report. In Gurgáon the increase was partly under the head of partitions, caused, the Deputy Commissioner says, by the desire of proprietors to have each holding defined prior to the introduction of the new Settlement.

8. In Jhelam, the increase is attributed to the effect of the reduction of stamp duties, and an increase in Tenancy cases is attributed to the better acquaintance of the people with the Act, and to the Settlement having only two years more to run.

9. In Pesháwar, the increase was chiefly in suits for money lent, and is attributed to a falling off in agricultural prosperity. The suits by zamíndárs against each other do not, however, show any decrease, as they do in Gujránwála.

10. The local reports of these districts do not enter sufficiently into the causes of increase and decrease of different classes of suits. The fact that civil suits generally have increased or decreased is often of less importance than the question of what particular classes of suits have increased or decreased. There were some other districts in which a considerable actual increase is shown, though the per-centage is not so high as the foregoing.

11. In Lahore, the increase is partly ascribed to drought in the rainy season, which led to a rush of creditors into Court to recover money from their debtors while they had any at their disposal. This was chiefly the case in the Small Cause Court. This cause cannot have operated in districts within the rainy zone, as the season was particularly a wet one. In Lahore, however, it was not so—the spring crop was below average, and the autumn crop very bad.

12. In Jálandhar, the increase is ascribed to continued prosperity There was a decrease, however, in land suits.

13. In Kángra, there was an increase in suits for land founded on inheritance. The careful examination of the Settlement Records disclosed mistakes, to remedy which suits were instituted.

14. In Siálkót there was a considerable actual increase of 1579 suits, which is equal to 10 per cent. on the previous year. The increase is chiefly under the head of suits against agriculturists by money-lenders.

Suits against Agriculturists.

15. The constant increase of suits by money-lenders against agricultural debtors is not necessarily a sign of prosperity, but often of improvidence on the part of the debtor, and of successful avarice on the part of the lender, to whom the Civil Courts are undoubtedly a more valuable support than they are to the improvident debtor. It has been noticed that in some of the districts where the civil suits are on the increase, transfers of land were also on the increase. It is true that ancestral land is allowed to be sold in execution of decree, and never requires to be sold for arrears of revenue, but nevertheless it is frequently sold or transferred to money-lenders in satisfaction of a private debt.

Effect of the Court Fees Act.

16. Whether the increase of civil litigation of the last two years would have taken place if the stamp duties had not been lowered, it is difficult to say. The amount of stamp duty is not the only cause that affects the question, yet it is a material cause. In 1867, when the stamp duty on plaints was suddenly raised, the number of suits fell by 21,000. The usual causes in favor of increase raised the number in 1869 to what it was before. In 1870 and 1871, the reduction of the duties gave a sudden impulse to litigation, and raised the number of suits to 53,000 above what it was in 1866, before the stamp duties were raised.

17. In most of the local reports the reduction of the duties is mentioned as one of the causes of the increase. The Court Fees Act was in operation during the whole of 1871, and for only nine months of 1870; moreover, it was not generally known among the people for some time after it came into operation. A considerable proportion of the increase of civil suits in 1870 and 1871 may therefore safely be attributed to the effect of this Act. Other causes have also been at work.

18. The continual increase of litigation in the Panjáb, from year to year, must be partly owing to the increasing attention devoted to the administration of Civil Justice, and the greater familiarity of the people with the official machinery provided for helping them to settle their disputes and realize their debts. There is more lending and borrowing, because the means of enforcing a settlement are always at hand. The lender is not slow to lend, because, with the assistance of the Courts, he is pretty sure to get the best of it in the end.

19. One of the causes of an increase of suits in Small Cause Courts had the same effect probably in a number of the District Courts, namely, the large number of bonds taken in the end of 1868, during a season of scarcity, the term of limitation of which expired in 1871, and in which suits were consequently brought.

Disposal of suits.

20. The total number of suits for disposal was 228,526 being 15,212 more than the previous year. The number pending at the end of the year was 10,136, being very little more than last year.

21. The annexed statement shows the order of districts as regards number of suits for disposal. The order is much the same as last year :—

Order in 1871.	Order in 1870.	Districts.	Total on the file including those remaining from 1870.	Disposed of.			Pending at close of 1871.	General average duration in disposal.	Remarks.
				For plaintiff.	For defendant.	Compromised, adjusted, transferred, &c.			
1	1	Hoshiárpúr ...	18,401	9,438	4,556	2,413	1,796	20	
2	2	Sialkót ...	17,956	10,056	4,481	2,285	757	18	
3	4	Lahore ...	16,089	8,752	3,840	2,522	800	17	
4	3	Amritsar ...	15,080	6,790	5,035	2,237	857	24	
5	6	Jálandhar ...	13,808	6,824	4,532	1,420	793	21	
6	5	Gurdáspúr ...	13,707	6,651	4,713	1,278	902	25	
7	8	Ambálah ...	9,375	4,500	2,487	1,745	384	19	
8	7	Fírozpúr ...	9,175	5,425	1,970	1,203	298	16	
9	10	Ráwulpindi ...	9,155	5,109	2,193	1,410	165	23	
10	13	Gujránwála ...	9,064	5,188	2,005	1,280	417	21	
11	11	Delhi ...	8,934	5,143	1,471	2,038	206	13	
12	9	Ludiánah ...	8,551	5,137	1,568	1,476	252	15	
13	12	Kángra ...	6,668	3,671	1,528	931	403	27	
14	14	Gujrát ...	6,491	3,554	1,517	835	383	15	
15	15	Dera Ismael Kháu	6,222	3,366	1,196	1,378	141	22	
16	17	Pesháwar ...	5,878	3,349	1,325	1,001	122	16	
17	19	Dera Ghází Khán	5,586	2,725	952	1,597	103	20	
18	20	Bannú ...	4,820	2,311	1,326	837	212	15	
19	16	Jhang ...	4,749	1,836	1,133	1,614	102	18	
20	18	Shahpúr ...	4,675	2,551	883	1,007	172	20	
21	23	Montgomery ...	4,407	2,585	866	821	51	16	
22	22	Karnál ...	3,891	1,981	687	924	141	19	
23	25	Muzaffargarh ...	3,701	1,869	755	859	117	26	
24	24	Multán ...	3,453	1,721	772	762	76	15	
25	21	Jehlam ...	4,268	1,905	1,073	998	151	21	
26	26	Simlah ...	2,942	1,825	549	494	44	13	
27	29	Gúrgáon ...	2,520	1,419	378	602	77	23	
28	27	Hissár ...	2,478	1,511	379	508	31	10	
29	28	Rohtak ...	2,416	1,425	311	614	31	13	
30	31	Hazárá ...	1,624	775	427	275	112	30	
31	30	Sirsa ...	1,403	862	310	158	30	18	
32	32	Kohát ...	1,041	711	200	110	10	16	
			2,28,526	1,20,965	55,418	37,632	10,136	23	

22. The number of pending cases is large in Hoshiárpúr, and considerable in a few other of the more important districts ; but upon the whole it is very moderate everywhere considering the increase of work. A constant check on the accumulation of arrears is kept up during the inspection of the monthly and quarterly returns.

Pending cases.

23. The average duration, 23 days, is 4 days higher than in 1870. This is not due to an exceptionally high average in any one district, but to a general increase. It was noticed, occasionally, that the average duration in some Courts was so low that proper time could not have been given to defendants to make arrangements for their defence. Such undue rapidity has been discouraged. Greater care has been enjoined in the calculation of the duration, and a small increase here and there is accounted for in this way.

Duration of cases.

24. The duration in Kángra and Hazárá continues to be high on account of the long distances people have to travel to reach the Courts.

25. Although the general duration in Dehli was low, the Deputy Commissioner reports a high duration in the Court of Mr. Carr. Stephen, owing to the delay in the disposal of suits in which Government was a party.

26. Dismissals on default continue in about the same proportion as before. They occur most frequently in suits of small value in which the parties have made a settlement out of Court. There is no reason to believe that suits are now dismissed on default too hastily. On the contrary, some Courts allow further time for the appearance of the parties where this is not required, and in one Court in Gurdáspúr it was the practice to summon the parties again and again before dismissing on default. Where this is done the parties have no inducement to be punctual in their attendance.

Dismissals on default.

27. Where dismissals on defaults are unduly frequent, the natural effect will be a large number of applications for readmission, and where this is not the result, the orders for dismissal on default may be presumed to be justifiable. The reports generally show that applications for readmission are not *excessive*.

The numbers in both years were as follows —
1870, . 3,939.
1871, . 5,305.

28. The Commissioner of Hissár makes the following remarks regarding the omission of Native Judges, in some cases, to examine the parties because the Defendant has filed a written statement :—

Procedure.
Examination of parties.

" The administration of Civil Justice, so far as it has come under my observation, in this Division, has been on the whole satisfactory. I have observed, however, certain defects, especially in Tahsíl Courts, to which I desire to draw attention.

" In one respect Act VIII of 1859 does not seem to be as clear to Native Judges as the old Rules of Procedure which constituted Part II of the Panjáb Civil Code.

" Para. 2 of Section II of the old procedure Rules required that the Judge should

personally examine the parties to a suit, and *confront* them, so that the *real points* at issue might be elicited before the case went to trial. If substantial justice is to be done between man and man, this very essential rule, which is I think contemplated by Section 139, Act VIII, requires to be carefully attended to, but unfortunately it is one which requires the exercise of considerable patience on the part of the Judge. Rural litigants are often extremely stupid and ignorant; and, in order to clear away all irrelevant matter and arrive at the real points at issue in the case, their minds have to be slowly and carefully unraveled as one would unwind a cocoon. Undue haste is apt to break the thread, and, once broken, it is hard to pick it up again. The true import of Section 139 Act VIII of 1869 is not however noticed by Tahsíldárs. Section 125 Act VIII simply says that the parties *may* be examined orally by the Court,' whilst Section 120 permits them to tender written statements at the first hearing of the case, and the Court is required to receive and file the same.

" The Tahsíldárs usually interpret these Sections in práctice as follows:—

" The plaint is accepted as the plaintiff's written statement; a written reply to it (prepared by an ignorant scribe sitting in chambers under the nearest tree) is filed by the defendant. Very frequently no attempt is made to confront the parties; the vaguest possible issues are drawn, such as ' Is the plaintiff's claim correct or is the defendant's story true, and intimation is recorded at foot that the onus of proof rests on *both* parties. '

" The plaint and written statement filed by the defendant are not unfrequently supplemented in the course of the trial by argumentative and discursive petitions which are improperly filed with the Proceedings.

" I do not object to written statements. The provisions of Sections 120 and 125 Act VIII are most desirable; but, strange as the assertion may seem, many Native Judges require to be impressed with the fact that the reception of written statements does not relieve them of the obligation to carefully ascertain upon what points the parties are agreed, and upon what points they differ. Were this always done, much needless entanglement, delay, and litigation in appeal, would he avoided."

29. The Judges are of opinion that all Courts should, as a rule, record the depositions of the parties irrespective of their written statements, except in cases where, from the position and intelligence of the parties, such a precaution may seem to be unnecessary.

MISCELLANEOUS CASES.

30. These are divided into cases disposable by Deputy Commissioner and all other District Judicial Officers; of the former class, the most numerous are applications for certificates for collection of debts on succession under Act XXVII of 1860, of which 351 were disposed of. There were also 135 appeals from orders passed in execution of decree, which is a very small number considering the large amount of execution work disposed of in the Courts of the lowest grade, under the rule which requires each Court to execute its own decrees.

31. Petitions for review of judgement for disposal in all District Courts were 2,316 in number, of which 2,302 were disposed of. The number of orders modified on revision is not shown in this statement, but the reports show that the power is exercised with due discretion.

32. The most important of the remaining heads is that of execution of decrees, which will be dealt with as a separate subject.

CLASSIFICATION OF SUITS.

33. The classification of suits is considered in two ways, (*a*) according to districts, (*b*) according to Courts. The former is shown in a local return, the latter in an imperial return. The classification is under 62 headings. Perhaps too great elaboration has been attempted.

34. The great divisions are as before, suits for money and suits for land, or interest in land.

35. Of suits for money, the largest class is under the head of unregistered bonds, of which the number increased from 51,527 in 1870 to 65,678 in 1871, while suits on registered bonds decreased from 9,999 to 9,412. Almost all other money suits show an increase.

Money Suits.

36. For the decrease in suits on registered bonds, the reason probably is, that the people have become better acquainted with the fact that, by law, the registration of money bonds is not compulsory, so that there must have been some special cause at work to produce this result.

37. The Deputy Commissioner of Gujrát says unregistered bonds are preferred, because the amount is recoverable under the three years' limitation. It is also natural to suppose that unregistered bonds are more readily repudiated than registered bonds, and are more frequently sued upon.

38. Suits on unwritten promises or parole debts have increased from 34,186 to 38,548; and suits on account stated, from 37,000 to 40,048.

39. Taking these four classes together, there is an increase of 20,974 suits for money claims or debts, and as the total increase of suits is over 15,000, there is a decrease in other classes of suits.

40. Suits for goods sold and delivered increased from 6,030 to 7,771. There are several districts in which no entries are made under this head. In these the suits have probably been classed as an account stated. It should be remembered that an "account stated" is an account to which both parties have assented.

41. Suits for damages are not very frequent. Under this head come suits for injuries to the person, which were 132 in number against 302 the previous year. They are confined to a few districts, Karnál, Ambálah, Pesháwar, &c.

42. Suits for injuries to property are more numerous, being 1,159. They include probably injury to crops, by cattle trespass, by fire, and otherwise. They were particularly numerous in Dehli, Hoshiárpúr and Kángra. Suits for defamation numbered 654, against 822 in 1870. They were numerous in Kángra (64), Amritsar (53), Siálkót (64), Gujránwála (62), Gujrát (64), Bannú (72).

43. Suits to settle partnership and other accounts show a decrease from 785 to 496. They were numerous in Fírozpúr (71).

44. Suits connected with religion and caste are still very few, being only 23, of which 15 were in Amritsar, 6 in Kángra, 1 in Ludiánah, and 1 in Gujránwála. In other districts there were none.

45. Betrothal suits show a slight decrease, but suits for custody of wives show an increase. This is apparently the result of the reduction of the stamp duty on the latter class of suits in the Court Fees Act. The two taken together show a slight decrease. Betrothal suits show an increase in Kángra, and a decrease in Amritsar and Siálkót. They were numerous in Fírozpúr and Ráwalpindi.

46. Adoption suits were few in number (35), but the question of adoption was probably involved in many of the suits for property included under other heads.

47. Suits to establish or contest wills were only 32 in number, of which 25 were in Hoshiárpúr. Here again a claim to property founded on a will would, in most cases, be classed under the head to which the property relates.

Land Suits.

48. Claims to land are distributed under the various classes,—inheritance, pre-emption, &c., but may more conveniently be brought together thus:—

Inheritance, Muhammadan Law	285
,, Hindú Law	696
,, any other Law	1,400
Mortgage	1,946
Pre-emption	794
Rights of superior and inferior holders ...	1,390
Partition	1,299
Total ...	7,810

49. These may be said to be the suits relating to the proprietary right in land, in districts not under settlement.

50. It will be seen that entries under the head of Muhammadan law and Hindú law of inheritance are not so numerous as those under "other" law. In other Provinces this heading would show the cases under the law of any other distinct nationality. But in the Panjáb it appears to have been understood to refer to the customary law of the country. Even in districts where the law might be expected to follow the religion of the inhabitants, the law of custom, so far as these returns are to be accepted, seems to prevail. For instance, in Jhelam, a great Muhammadan district, only 5 cases were decided under the Muhammadan law, and 325 under customary law. Similarly in

Gujrát, the adjoining district, there were 8 cases under Muhammadan law, and 292 under customary law. In Kángra, where the population is largely Hindú, there were 125 cases under Hindú law, and 161 under customary law.

51. Some allowance must be made for errors in classification, for in Gurdáspúr all the cases are entered as having been decided under Hindú law, and, in many other districts, no cases are entered under that third indefinite head "other law."

52. The evidence afforded by the classification statement as on this head is in an imperfect state, but, taking the figures as reported, they, however, at all events, tend to show that though the parties in land suits in the Panjáb, in many instances, may be nominally Hindús or Muhammadans, the law to which they appeal for the decision of these important rights in land is not necessarily the ordinary Hindú and Muhammadan law, but is often so unlike either that it has to be classed as "any other law," meaning usually some local custom that has for a long period over-ridden the original law.

53. Claims for land seem to be abnormally few in the Multán Division In the Dehli Division also they are very few, but in Gurgáon there were 548 suits for partition, many of which were probably claims for proprietary right in disputed shares preparatory to partition. The Deputy Commissioner explains that they were filed in consequence of the Settlement being about to commence.

54. Land mortgage suits were very numerous in Bannú and Derah Ismail Khán,—mortgages for long periods are very common in that tract. Land mortgages show a marked decrease in Gurdáspúr from 783 to 63. They were numerous in Ambálah, Kángra, Amritsar, Jálandhar, and Ludiánah.

55. Pre-emption suits for land were very numerous in Bannú (145), and show a great falling off in Siálkót, where the classification of 1870 was apparently unreliable.

56. The suits classed as relating to the rights of superior and inferior land holders occur chiefly in Bannú and Derah Ismail Khán; also in Ambálah and Rohtak. There was probably some doubt felt as to what suits should be included under this head.

57. Upon the whole, the number of land suits is not so large as might have been expected from the importance of such rights, and from the number of appeals that they give rise to, but it must be remembered that the more important suits for proprietary right in land are disposed of in Settlement Courts.

Rent and Tenancy Suits.

58. Rent suits shew an increase under the head of arrears of rent from tenants without right of occupancy. Such suits were frequent in the Dehli District (323), Amritsar (372), Derah Ghází Khán (321), Hoshiárpúr (263). There are none recorded in Siálkót, which is probably a mistake. Last year there were none in Derah Ghází Khán. The settlement was in operation during both years in that District.

59. Rent suits against tenants with right of occupancy were most frequent in Ambálah (170), Hoshiárpúr (134), and Ráwalpindi (124). There were none in Siálkót.

60. The heading, rent suits not included under previous special heads, shews a decrease from 1,645 to 712, the result probably of better classification in some districts.

61. Cases under the Tenancy Act have decreased from 4,659 to 3,285. The decrease is chiefly under the following heads :—

	1870.	1871.
Suits by tenants for right of occupancy, Section 5	1,215	1,008
„ by landlords for rebutting presumptive rights of occupancy, Section 6	1,398	817
„ Appraisement, Section 18	493	25
„ Ejectment, Section 20	812	309

Suits for enhancement under Sections 10 and 11 have increased from 102 to 617.

62. Suits by tenants for right of occupancy were, as last year, most frequent in Siálkót (215). There were also a good many in Gurgáon (104), Jálandhar (91), Amritsar (184).

63. Suits by landlords under Section 6 were almost entirely in Amritsar (256), and Gurdáspúr (136).

64. Suits for enhancement occurred in the following districts :—

Gurdáspúr	370
Siálkót	90
Lahore	69
Amritsar	59
Ráwalpindi	22
Kángra	6
Jálandhar	1

65. Suits for ejectment of tenants were not particularly numerous in any one district, the largest numbers being 58 in Fírozpúr, and 54 in Ráwalpindi. But ejectments were frequently made without a suit, and in 216 cases the tenant resisted the illegal ejectment by a suit against the landlord. Of these, 89 cases occurred in Sirsa, and 59 in Lahore.

66. In Karnál and Sirsa there was a slight increase of ejectment of tenants-at-will, which is attributed partly to a plea on the part of the landlords that the tenants may, some day, claim occupancy right.

AGENCY.

67. The following statement shows the manner in which the disposal of original suits was distributed among the various classes of Judicial officers :—

Number.	OFFICERS.	ORIGINAL CASES DECIDED.		Average number of cases decided by the officers of each class.
		Number.	Per-centage.	
32	Deputy Commissioners	860	0·3	27
60	Assistant Commissioners	11,249	5·1	187
22	Extra Assistant Commissioners, European ...	7,260	3·3	330
54	Extra Assistant Commissioners, Native	29,926	13·7	554
121	Tahsíldárs	71,572	32·7	591
96	Naib Tahsíldárs	44,440	20·3	463
41	Hony. Civil Judges	11,777	5.3	287
8	Judges of Small Cause Courts	35,261	16·1	4,407
8	Judges of Cantonment Courts	6,045	2·7	755
		2,18,390	99·5	

There is a decrease in the proportion decided by Native Extra Assistant Commissioners, and a slight increase in the proportion disposed of by Tahsíldárs and Naib Tahsíldárs. There is also a marked increase in the proportion disposed of by Small Cause Courts.

68. In some of the larger districts, the Deputy Commissioner disposed of scarcely any Civil Suits, but in some of the others, the Deputy Commissioners took a large share of the work, particularly in Gujrát, where the Deputy Commissioner decided 196 cases.

69. Naib Tahsíldárs are still very largely employed in the decision of Civil suits, particularly in the following districts :—

Siálkót,	...	5,990
Gurdáspúr,	...	4,390

There is a decrease in the number of cases disposed of by Cantonment Small Cause Courts, owing partly to officers being without higher powers, and, in the case of Multán, to diminution in the number of troops and camp-followers.

70. The share of work taken by Honorary Civil Judges continues to increase. In Amritsar, Gurdáspúr, Siálkót, and Gujránwála, a large number of cases are decided by this Agency. There are, however, many districts where

the civil work is very heavy, in which it has not yet been found practicable to obtain honorary assistance. Attention requires to be constantly directed to this subject in order that suitable men may be recommended when they can be found, as the extension of such Courts is not merely a relief to the regular Courts, and a suitable occupation for native gentlemen of means and education, but it is a great convenience to the people, and often saves them a long journey to the Sadr or Tahsíl Courts.

71. The work of Sardár Rájandar Singh, in the Hoshiárpúr District, is highly spoken of by the Deputy Commissioner. There were only two appeals from his order, and, in both, his orders were upheld.

72. In Ambálah, however, the Honorary Judges are not quite so highly thought of. In the case of an Honorary Judge in Karnál, the duration was high, because he was frequently absent on private business. With these exceptions the testimony of local officers is favorable to the honorary agency.

Arbitration and commission.

73. The number of cases referred to arbitrators shows a further decline from 4,983 to 4,485, being 2 per cent. of the total number of cases disposed of. In some districts the proportion is higher than elsewhere, for instance—

Karnál	... ...	4·2 per cent.
Sirsa	... ...	3·1 „
Fírozpúr	... ...	3·1 „
Ráwalpindi	... ...	3·0 „
Jhelam	... ...	3·4 „
Gujrát	... ...	3·3 „
Multán	... ...	3·6 „
Derah Ghází Khán	...	3·8 „

The subject has been very fully discussed during the last two years, and there is but little to add to the conclusion already arrived at, that the system is unpopular because the award is final. Whether a system of arbitration on other principles than those laid down in the Civil Procedure Code, would be advantageous or not, is another question. On this subject Mr. Forsyth has recorded the following remarks:—

"Apparently it is considered a good sign that the people are gradually abandoning arbitration in favor of decisions by our Courts.

"Of course if the question of the popularity of our Courts be the only consideration, I concur in this view, but I cannot view with satisfaction the decline, more or less rapid of the Panchayat system, which, for ages, has worked so well in this land."

Commissions.

74. The issuing of commissions to Tahsíldárs and Naib Tahsíldárs is still too common. The Judges are of opinion that no officer of a grade lower than that of Deputy Commissioner should be allowed to issue a commission to a Tahsíldár or Naib Tahsíldár, unless with the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner of the District. A rule to this effect has already been adopted in some Districts. It should be made general.

VALUE AND COSTS OF SUITS.

(In District Courts.)

75. The number and value of suits relating to land shows a decrease, caused probably by Settlement operations having been introduced in several new districts. The number and value of other suits shows an increase.

76. The average value of land suits was Rs. 52-6-9 as compared with Rs. 50-13-2 in 1870. The average value of suits not connected with land was Rs. 48-8-9, which is less than last year.

77. The average value, of both classes of suits taken together is Rs. 49-13-8 against Rs. 52-12-8 last year, and Rs. 59 in 1869. This decrease is partly because of the absence of suits of exceptionally high value in 1871. Further details are given in the annexed statement.

STATEMENT showing value and cost of original Civil suits in the several Districts of the Panjáb, during the year 1871.

Classification of suits according to value.	Suits relating to proprietary right in, or occupancy of land assessed or subject to settlement.						Other Suits.					
	Number of suits.	Aggregate value of suits.	Aggregate cost of suits.	Average value of suits.	Average cost of suits.	Per-centage of costs to value.	Number of suits.	Aggregate value of suits.	Aggregate cost of suits.	Average value of suits.	Average cost of suits.	Per-centage of costs to value.
Not exceeding Rs. 5	4,540	14,062	5,568	3 1 6	1 3 7	39 9 5	28,873	108,293	22,414	3 12 ...	... 12 5	20 11 2
„ „ „ 20	7,578	96,704	17,151	12 12 2	2 4 2	17 11 9	75,745	826,404	118,169	10 1 5	1 10 7	14 4 9
„ „ „ 100	7,749	379,899	51,880	46 7 1	6 11 1	14 7 1	73,180	3,337,829	391,618	45 9 9	5 5 5	11 11 9
„ „ „ 500	2,296	406,415	45,889	177 ... 2	19 15 9	11 7 1	16,327	2,761,001	152,862	180 3 3	9 15 6	5 8 7
„ „ „ 1,000	162	107,380	11,144	662 13 5	68 12 8	10 6 1	1,069	679,120	69,743	635 4 7	65 4 9	10 4 4
„ „ „ 5,000	70	136,578	13,167	1,951 1 8	188 1 7	9 10 3	579	1,089,184	99,667	865 1 10	79 2 7	9 2 5
„ „ „ 10,000	3	23,706	1,270	7,902	423 5 4	5 5 9	52	344,516	21,183	6,817 9 10	407 5 10	6 2 5
„ „ „ 100,000	2	29,484	1,369	14,742	684 8 ...	4 10 3	19	312,754	11,846	16,460 11 9	670 13 6	3 12 7
TOTAL, ...	22,400	1,174,228	147,438	52 6 9	6 9 3	12 8 10	194,844	9,459,101	887,502	48 8 9	4 10 5	9 6 2

EXECUTION OF DECREES.

78. The following statement shows execution work for disposal, and the manner in which it was disposed of. Columns have been added on this occasion to show the value realized, as the per-centage of decrees, fully executed, is not of itself a sufficient test. Of 100,740 applications disposed of, 43 per cent. were completely executed, and 25 per cent. were partially executed, 30 per cent. were struck off in default, and the few remaining cases were transferred. These results are very much the same as last year. There is no improvement in the per-centage completely and partially executed. But there is a slight improvement in the per-centage of value realized, which in 1870 was 29 per cent., and in 1871 is 31 per cent. The reason that the per-centage of value realized is so much lower than the per-centage of decrees executed, is that all decrees are not necessarily for payment of money value. Those for rights in land, or for specific performance, would not appear in the returns as value realized, but as decrees executed.

Districts.	Total number of applications for execution.	Completely executed.	Partially executed.	Struck off.	Transferred.	Total number disposed of.	Percentage of decrees completely executed.	Value of decrees put in execution.	Amount realized.		Percentage realized.
									Voluntarily.	After issue or execution of coercive process.	
Dehli	5,484	1,614	2,379	858	309	5,160	31	7,91,562	33,748	69,503	13
Gurgáon	1,272	496	234	381	9	1,120	44	1,73,431	4,302	53,619	33
Karnál	2,547	877	595	817	26	2,315	38	3,03,007	5,834	53,024	19
Hissár	1,245	408	370	380	23	1,181	34	1,28,898	5,228	34,176	30
Rohtak	1,683	663	657	268	22	1,610	41	94,779	4,930	32,876	39
Sirsa	754	254	164	266	18	702	36	75,231	6,678	27,105	45
Ambálah	6,035	2,302	1,254	2,048	...	5,604	41	5,30,673	7,803	1,44,393	28
Ludiánah	4,617	1,670	1,489	1,123	...	4,282	39	2,40,506	13,962	90,446	43
Simla	1,781	404	358	894	71	1,727	23	1,19,553	9,994	22,423	27
Jálandhar ...	7,958	2,485	2,009	2,463	154	7,111	35	4,29,862	22,014	1,24,906	34
Hoshiárpúr ...	8,391	3,386	2,060	2,182	...	7,628	44	5,62,279	50,995	87,115	24
Kángra	2,867	1,423	375	658	...	2,456	57	1,60,023	14,570	27,274	26
Amritsar	6,962	2,126	1,258	2,641	...	6,025	35	7,08,694	36,034	1,32,776	25
Gurdáspúr ...	5,829	2,368	1,139	1,438	...	4,945	48	3,55,777	1,765	1,08,315	30
Siálkót	8,588	3,136	2,033	2,504	...	7,673	40	3,20,833	10,648	57,336	21
Lahore	9,102	3,415	2,301	2,611	1	8,328	41	4,21,017	21,314	1,53,182	41
Firozpúr	5,485	1,956	1,707	1,288	...	4,951	39	2,85,391	16,932	71,322	30
Gujranwála ...	3,590	1,639	694	892	43	3,198	51	1,59,436	7,755	65,037	45
Ráwalpindi ...	3,902	1,983	568	959	50	3,560	55	2,47,076	9,349	82,025	37
Jhelam	1,662	965	276	278	1	1,520	63	1,40,069	11,532	60,602	51
Gujrát	2,761	1,217	637	482	...	2,336	52	91,373	15,099	48,924	70
Shahpúr	1,790	891	233	524	...	1,648	54	1,22,133	41	29,832	24
Multán	1,304	564	277	380	1	1,222	46	91,656	1,192	37,709	42
Jhang	1,727	692	272	638	...	1,602	43	60,184	...	24,136	40
Montgomery ...	1,589	568	329	571	...	1,468	39	93,493	3,104	26,269	31
Muzaffargarh ...	1,411	664	130	551	...	1,345	49	62,172	10,798	15,544	42
Bannú	2,134	1,264	278	304	...	1,846	68	58,110	34,698	12,001	80
Derah Ismail Khán	2,336	1,287	270	585	...	2,142	60	1,41,421	19,121	27,796	33
Derah Ghází Khán	2,036	1,151	310	350	...	1,811	63	86,169	2,467	42,560	52
Pesháwar ...	3,302	1,549	827	758	1	3,135	49	2,99,017	14,101	1,08,728	41
Hazárá	925	333	211	165	60	769	43	1,14,319	7,415	13,571	17
Kohát	336	213	42	65	...	320	66	22,726	297	8,544	39
Total ...	1,11,405	43,963	25,666	36,322	789	1,00,740	43	74,94,870	4,05,720	18,93,129	31

79. The highest proportion of decrees completely executed was in the following districts :—

	Per-centage of decrees executed.
Bannú	68
Kohát	66
Derah Ghází Khán ...	63
Jhelam	63
Derah Ismail Khán	60
Kángra	57
Ráwalpindi	55
Sháhpúr	54

but in some of these districts the per-centage of value realized was very low, for instance—

Kohát	39
Derah Ismail Khán	33
Kángra	26
Sháhpúr	24

The statistics of decrees partially executed do not show to what extent the realization was effected. Some of the decrees so shown were executed nearly in full, while others were executed scarcely at all. The fairest test, therefore, is the per-centage of value realized. This varies greatly, being in one district (Dehli) as low as 13 per cent., and in another (Bannú) as high as 80, and Gujrát, 70.

Of the amount realized, Rs. 4,03,720 was paid in voluntarily, and Rs. 18,93,129 was realized after issue of coercive process.

The coercive processes issued were as follows :—

Arrest of persons	5,791
Attachment of moveable property ...	32,459
Sale of immoveable property	9,227
Attachment of immoveable property ...	6,159
Sales of land	15
Sales of other immoveable property ...	1,875

80. There is an increase under every head as compared with last year. Increased efforts appear to have been made to compel debtors to pay their debts, but the increased realizations are not in proportion to these efforts, showing how great is the difficulty of the subject.

81. Arrest of persons, with a view to imprisonment, was much more largely resorted to. The arrests were most numerous in the following districts :—

Dehli	1,156
Simla	1,141
Pesháwar	1,048
Ráwalpindi	473
Bannú	465

Sales of immoveable property show a large increase. They were most frequent in the following districts :—

Siálkót	...	...	...	343
Lahore	...	...	...	257
Ludiánah	...	...	...	171
Amritsar	...	...	..	155
Karnál	...	...	...	130
Ambálah	...	...	...	127

82. In the Multán, Deraját and Pesháwar Divisions, such sales were comparatively rare.

83. There is reason to believe that sales of house property are unnecessarily frequent in some places, and that sufficient opportunity is not given to debtors to arrange for payment in some other way before their houses are sold. Great caution should be observed by Commissioners in sanctioning the sale of houses belonging to agriculturists, as on the possession of such houses the ability to cultivate the land frequently depends.

84. The number of debtors in jail during the year shows an increase. The amount for which they were imprisoned was Rs. 1,23,172. Their terms were as follows :—

541	up to one month.
341	one month to three months.
120	three months to six months.
7	above six months.

85. Imprisonments were frequent in Simla and Pesháwar. In connection with this subject, the Judges have lately taken the opportunity of directing that the provisions of Sections 280 and 281 of the Civil Procedure Code shall be explained to every Civil debtor on entering jail, and that a copy of those Sections shall be hung up in every debtor's ward; and it is hoped that cases of protracted imprisonment for debt will, in future, be rare.

86. Greater attention has been paid during the year to the subject of execution of decrees. Execution is generally effected by the same Court that passed the decree, but the officer is not always the same, as the frequent changes of officers render this in many cases impossible. A few officers are still in favor of the old rule of making over most of the execution work to one Court.

87. It is noticed by the Deputy Commissioner of Dehli that the results of the execution of decrees are better in Tahsíl Courts than at the Sadr, the reason alleged being that the decrees given in the Tahsíl Courts are of smaller amount, and hence more readily realized.

88. The Commissioner of Multán (Colonel Graham) confirms what was said by his predecessor last year as to the difficulty of realizing decrees for the sale proceeds of cattle owing to the extent to which animals are held in

shares by a number of persons. The same is true to a certain extent of the land, which is also subject to numerous incumbrances. "Creditors generally decline to attach debtor's land, and prefer to make their own arrangements out of Court, by which means they ultimately manage to secure a hold over the land."

89. The Commissioner of Ráwalpindi remarks that at present a land owner possesses too much immunity from execution of decrees, because of sufficient use not being made of Section 243, providing for the appointment of managers to receive the rent and profits.

90. Other officers, however, point out the difficulty of finding a manager, especially where land is held in minute shares, and subject to incumbrances.

91. In Bannú the realizations of decrees was very satisfactory, being 80 per cent., of which 60 per cent. was voluntarily paid into Court. This was effected, moreover, without any sale of immoveable property.

92. Upon the whole, the results of the year are somewhat more favorable than the previous year. In judging of results in this department of work, it must be remembered that the realizations obtained through the Court, whether voluntarily or after issue of process, do not represent the entire realizations.

93. In small cases a settlement is frequently made between the parties when they return to their village, and they do not find it worth while to return to Court to report the fact. Such cases go by default, and are struck off, and do not re-appear. Some reduction in the duration of execution cases has been attained in particular districts owing to great attention to the subject, but the duration for the Province is the same, 27 days.

SMALL CAUSE COURTS.

94. There was a large increase in the institutions in Small Cause Courts. The details are given in the following statement:—

Court.	For disposal.			No. disposed of during 1871.	Pending at end of 1871.	Date of oldest case, pending.	Average duration.
	Pending at end of 1870.	Instituted.	Total.				
Dehli	183	5,377	5,560	5,503	57	27th November	5
Ludiánah	97	2,835	2,932	2,903	29	21st December	8
Simla	2	1,740	1,742	1,740	2	5th December	8
Jálandhar	59	5,322	5,381	5,094	287	13th December	16
Hoshiárpúr	131	5,450	5,581	5,390	191	18th November	14
Amritsar	96	5,494	5,590	5,481	109	6th December	10
Lahore	262	6,736	6,998	6,734	264	4th December	8
Pesháwar	5	2,422	2,427	2,416	11	6th November	11
Total, ... 1871	835	35,376	36,211	35,261	950	... ...	10
... 1870	406	30,628	31,034	30,199	835	... ...	10

95. The large increase in Jálandhar is owing to increased territorial jurisdiction. The Judge also says:—

"The limit of vast numbers of bonds given in lieu of older bonds in December 1863 when it was known that Act 14 of 1859 would come into force from 1st January 1869, was about to expire in December 1871, and was the cause of an unusual number of institutions during the last quarter of the year.

96. The pending file was largest in Lahore and Jálandhar, but there were no cases of older date than November, in any Court.

97. The classification statement shows that suits on registered bonds show an increase in the aggregate, but a decrease in five Courts. The increase was chiefly in Jálandhar.

Classification.

98. Unregistered bonds show a large increase, except in Ludiánah and Amritsar, where there was a decrease.

99. Unwritten promises show an increase in seven Courts, and a slight decrease in Ludiánah. These suits are more numerous in Amritsar than elsewhere.

100. Suits on account stated seem abnormally few in Jálandhar, Hoshiárpúr and Lahore, as compared with Dehli and Amritsar.

101. Suits for goods sold and delivered, are very numerous in Lahore.

102. The total number of suits under the main heads was as follows:—

	1870.	1871.
Money due	28,354	33,137
Rent	654	614
Recovery of personal property or value thereof...	1,003	1,246
Damages	188	264
Total, ...	30,199	35,261

103. The decrease of suits in Ludiánah is attributed by the Judge to several causes. The break in the railway at the Bías caused a falling-off of trade in the city, which affected litigation. The spring harvest was good, and enabled debtors to pay their debts without being put into Court. But the autumn harvest was bad, and creditors thought it better to wait till a better harvest, and in the mean time took bonds for their debts. The large number of marriage parties in the first quarter is also said to have kept away many people from the Courts. Such are the reasons assigned by the Judge for the decrease. They cannot, however, be looked upon as conclusive, as there was an increase of litigation in the District Courts of Ludiánah, and the same causes must have operated on both. In the neighbouring district of Jálandhar, the increase of Small Cause Court cases was very marked.

Decrease in Ludiánah, &c.

104. In Hoshiárpúr an increase of suits was caused partly by the extension of territorial jurisdiction, and also by the cause adduced in Jálandhar—the number of suits brought on bonds executed in 1868 during the famine. The Judge also remarks that defendants found it more advantageous to be sued and to get instalments fixed than to renew their bonds at exorbitant rates of interest.

105. The decrease in Amritsar is attributed to the effect of the Franco-German war on the shawl trade. There was, however, an increase in suits against agriculturists.

106. The increase in Lahore is not ascribed to any preponderating cause.

107. The increase in Peshâwar is rather a return to the normal amount of litigation, which had been unduly depressed for several years, owing to sickness and slackness of trade.

Duration of suits in Small Cause Courts.

108. The average duration is the same as before, 10 days, being lowest in Dehli, five days, owing partly to the limited territorial jurisdiction of that Court. It was found that the direction in the law (Section 18 of Act XI. of 1865) requiring the issue of summons to be for final disposal of the suit, was not uniformly acted up to in Small Cause Courts. The enforcement of the correct procedure had the effect of reducing the average duration of suits in several Courts.

109. The Judge of the Simla Small Cause Court, however, reports a larger number of applications for retrial; and says the rule had also the effect of inducing plaintiffs to bring with them, or get summoned by the Court, a number of unnecessary witnesses.

110. In Jálandhar, the average duration was increased by the extension of the territorial jurisdiction of the Court. The duration was 19 for contested, and 15 for uncontested cases.

111. The duration in Amritsar was reduced by the practice of issuing summons for final disposal, and the number of retrials shows no increase, but, on the contrary, a large decrease.

112. The duration in Peshâwar increased owing to the illness of the Judge, during the autumn, and owing to the increased work necessitating longer dates for hearings. The rule for issue of summons for final disposal was, however, carried out with good effect.

Execution.

113. On the subject of the execution of decrees, Mr. Donald, the Judge, Small Cause Court, Hoshiárpúr, has some interesting remarks, which will be found in the appendix.

114. The Judge of the Lahore Small Cause Court remarks, regarding executions of decree, that "creditors are, as a rule, very forbearing;" and that the application of Sections 273 and 282 of Act VIII. of 1859, prevents undue pressure on poor debtors.

The work of this Court has increased enormously from year to year, and is now beyond the power of a single Judge to dispose of satisfactorily. Half of the work consists of cases below Rs. 20 in value. Relief in some shape is urgently required.

Cantonment Small Cause Courts.

115. The number of institutions shows a slight decrease. In Pesháwar the causes of this are carefully stated by Colonel Elwyn. They are chiefly that the pay of native soldiers can no longer be attached, that syces and grass-cutters attached to Batteries of Artillery are exempt from arrest, under the articles of war of 1868, that British Regiments are moved yearly, and scattered about in detachments, and their camp-followers cannot obtain long credit.

116. The other reports do not account fully for the decrease, but it is owing in some cases to transfer of troops, and, in others, to want of full powers on the part of the Cantonment Magistrate.

117. The number of cases referred to arbitration in Ráwalpindi in 1870 was 106, as noticed in last year's Report. This year it was only 20, and in the other Courts the number is equally moderate.

118. Only 36 cases were pending at the end of the year. The average duration was 8 days, or one day higher than last year, but still very moderate.

119. These Courts continue to render useful service, when presided over by experienced officers.

APPEALS TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS.

120. The number of appeals for disposal in Deputy Commissioners' Courts was 8,720, being 1,234, more than in 1870. The institutions increased largely in several districts, among which are—

Bannú	...	...	208
Gurdáspúr	...	...	167
Siálkót	...	...	132
Ludiánah	...	...	108
Montgomery	...	...	89
Ambálah	...	...	88
Jálandhar	...	...	75
Ráwalpindi	...	...	71
Gujránwála	...	...	59

In other districts where there was an increase it was below 50.

121. The institutions show a decrease in the following districts :—

Hoshiárpúr	...	...	117
Sháhpúr	...	...	71
Gujrát	...	...	52

The effect of the reduced duties on plaints is felt in appeals; also another cause of the increase of appeals is that a good many new officers were appointed during the year, who exercised only ordinary or special powers, and whose appeals consequently came before Deputy Commissioners.

122. The pending file shows a decrease from 698 to 450. The number of pending appeals was not excessive in any district.

123. In Bannú and Fírozpúr, the reduction of the arrears noticed last year is very satisfactory. The vigorous efforts made by the Deputy Commissioner of Bannú, (Captain Johnstone) to dispose of the appeals that he found pending on his taking charge, and the increased number of fresh appeals, are specially noticed by the Commissioner, and were acknowledged by the Chief Court, during the year.

Disposal of appeals.

124. Appeals were disposed of as follows :—

Transferred			2	per cent.
Withdrawn or struck off, on default			539	6·5
Heard ex-parte ...	Confirmed,		668	8·0
	Modified,		23	0·3
	Reversed,		59	0·7
Contested	Confirmed,		4,457	53·9
	Modified,		526	6·3
	Reversed,		1,160	14·0
Remanded,			836	10·1
Total disposed of ...			8,270	

125. The number withdrawn, or struck off on default, shows a slight increase, but the increase is not marked in any particular district. It is rather due to an assimilation in practice in different districts.

126. The number confirmed ex-parte is just about the same as last year, but the proportion is less.

127. The proportion of contested appeals confirmed is nearly three per cent. higher than last year, but the proportion reversed is one per cent. higher. The proportion remanded is two per cent. lower. These results are, upon the whole, more favorable than those reported last year.

128. The number of cases in which issues were referred to the Lower Courts under Section 354 shows an increase, which occurs chiefly in the Amritsar and Jálandhar Divisions.

129. The number of cases in which additional evidence was called for under Section 356 also shows an increase, chiefly in the Lahore and Ráwalpindi Divisions..

Value and costs of Appeals.

130. The value and costs of appeals to Deputy Commissioners are shown in the following statement :—

The value and costs of appeals to the Deputy Commissioners are shown in the subjoined Statement.

Scale of Valuation.	Number of appeals.	Aggregate value of appeals.	Aggregate cost of appeals.					Average value of appeal.			Average cost of appeals.			Per-centage of costs to value.		
			Court Fees Stamps other than process fees.	Process Fees Stamps.	Pleaders or Mukhteárs' fees.	Miscellaneous costs.	Total.									
Not exceeding Rs. 5	785	2,664	325	147	4	604	1,080	3	6	3	1	6	..	40	8	7
„ „ „ 20	2,757	33,681	3,090	836	52	2,077	6,055	12	3	5	2	3	1	17	15	7
„ „ „ 100	3,901	2,15,727	14,869	6,562	281	4,142	22,854	55	4	9	5	13	8	10	9	10
„ „ „ 500	799	1,40,580	10,044	1,704	240	1,485	13,473	175	15	1	16	13	9	9	9	
Total, ...	8,242	3,92,652	28,328	6,249	577	8,308	43,462	47	10	3	5	4	4	11	1	1

The average value, which last year showed an increase of three annas, now shows a further increase of Rs. 1-11-9. The increase is chiefly in the class valued from Rs. 20 to 100.

131. The average cost has decreased from Rs. 5-11-3 to 5-4-4, and the per-centage of costs to value from Rs. 12-6-9 to Rs. 11-1-1.

132. The importance attached to the right of appeal is discernible from the large number of appeals in cases below Rs. 20 in value. Many of these were doubtless connected with land, where the ostensible value is often merely nominal.

133. Attention was directed during the year to the working of Section VII of the Panjáb Appeals Act VII of 1868.

134. The Commissioner of Hissár makes the following remarks on this subject :—

"I concur generally with the Deputy Commissioners Rohtak and Hissár in their remarks under head No. 13. The matter assumes a different aspect, no doubt, in the Chief Court. The *facts* in cases appealed to that Court have, usually I presume, been carefully sifted before the case reaches it, and European Officers of greater or less experience have, it is to be hoped, usually written careful judgments in English setting forth the facts in each case. Lower Appellate Courts do not enjoy these facilities for rejecting a frivolous appeal *in limine*. The appellant *almost always* challenges the finding of the Lower Court on the facts, and I should rarely feel that I was doing justice were I to dismiss the appeal straight off, as allowed by Act VII of 1868, without going through the case. In rural districts, where Native Judges are often inferior

where the suitors are extremely ignorant, and are without sound legal advice, points of law, uncomplicated by issues of fact, rarely come before Lower Appellate Courts for decision. When, as is usually the case, an appellant asserts that the evidence does not support the finding of the Lower Court upon the facts, I do not see how the appeal can be satisfactorily disposed of without going through the case."

APPEALS TO COMMISSIONERS.

135. The number of appeals instituted in the Courts of Commissioners shows a slight decrease, but the number for disposal is slightly higher, because the number pending from 1870 was high. The number disposed of was much greater, and the number left pending was greatly reduced. All these results are satisfactory. The average duration was slightly higher, because the cases disposed of included many of old date.

136. The general results are given in the following statement :—

Divisions.	Number of appeals disposed of.	Appeals withdrawn, transferred, or struck off for default.		Confirmed.		Modified.		Reversed.		Remanded.	
		Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.
Dehli ...	292	32	11·0	200	68·5	6	2·0	45	15·4	9	3·0
Hissar	140	7	5·0	93	66·4	10	7·1	24	17·1	6	4·3
Ambálah ...	278	1	0·3	224	80·5	8	2·8	44	15·8	1	0·3
Jálandhar ...	771	38	5·0	514	66·6	54	7·0	108	14·0	57	7·3
Amritsar ...	1,313	108	8·2	771	58·7	57	4·3	222	16·8	155	11·8
Lahore ...	549	56	10·2	279	51·0	30	5·4	122	22·2	62	11·2
Ráwalpindí ...	437	34	7·7	285	65·2	28	6·4	66	15·1	24	5·4
Multán ...	178	...	...	119	66·8	12	6 7	36	20·2	11	6·1
Deraját ...	194	3	1·5	123	63·4	7	3·6	23	11·8	38	19 5
Pesháwar ...	178	6	3·3	122	68·5	12	6·7	14	7·9	24	13·5
Total, ... 1871,	4,330	285	6·6	2,730	63·0	224	5·1	704	16·2	387	8·9
Total, ... 1870,	3,646	270	7·4	2,332	64·0	221	6·0	540	14·8	283	7·7

137. At the end of 1870, the arrears in the Amritsar Division were very heavy, amounting to 581 cases. In 1871 there were 805 new appeals instituted, which is more than in any other Division, but is slightly below the number instituted in 1870. This result is in keeping with the conclusion stated last year, that undue delay in the disposal of appellate work tends to encourage groundless appeals, and that when the work is more promptly disposed of, the number of institutions falls off.

138. There was an increase of appeals instituted in the Lahore Division from 411 to 546. In Ambálah, there was a decrease from 494 to 349. In the remaining Divisions the difference was not great.

139. The amount of work disposed of in the Amritsar Division was very great—1313 cases. This result was effected by the assistance of an additional Commissioner (Mr. Elsmie), who worked in this Division for a period of months. The duration in this Division was high owing to the accumulation of old cases, but at the end of the year there were only 10 cases pending over four months.

140. The duration in Pesháwar, 125 days, was too high, considering that there were only 181 appeals for disposal, and that an additional Commissioner (Colonel Cripps) was located in that Division nearly the whole year.

141. In Jálandhar the work was heavier than in any other Division except Amritsar, and, towards the end of the year, it was found necessary to send the additional Commissioner (Mr. Elsmie) there to assist in the disposal of current work and arrears. Still the year closed with a pending file of 108 cases, of which 22 were over four months old.

142. In the Derajat the work was not kept sufficiently in hand, and as the year went on, arrears accumulated, till at the close there were 119 appeals pending, of which 67 were over four months old; some of them being over a year old. The state of the appellate work in this Division has formed the subject of consideration and correspondence; but the present Commissioner, Major Munro, is making great efforts to reduce the work, and the state of the files is gradually improving. The improvement would have been more marked had it not been that the Commissioner was much occupied with political work of an important character.

143. The small average duration of the Lahore Division, 31 days, is very creditable, considering the large amount of work disposed of. The state of the pending file also in this Division was very satisfactory. There were only 25 cases, of which only three were more than two months old.

144. There is a decrease in appeals of exceptionally high value, which leads to a decrease in the total, and in the average value of each appeal.

145. The bulk of the appeals are, as in former years, of values under Rs. 500, and, if the classification were more minute, it would be found that most of these are under 300. The cost of appeals of this class varies from 10 to 14 per cent. on the value, and as the value descends, the per-centage is much higher. These results tend to show how highly the power of appeal is valued by suitors.

146. In judging of the increase or decrease of appeals from Courts of first instance it is necessary to take Commissioners' Courts and Deputy Commissioners' Courts together, for the appeals will go to the one or the other accord-

ing as the officer appealed against has full powers or not. But the returns and reports show that in both classes of Courts there is an increase in appeals of small value under Rs. 50 or 60, and where a decrease occurs, it is usually in the higher values.

147. The Commissioner of Amritsar notes that in his Court there were 648 appeals relating to land, the average costs of which amounted to Rs. 5-11-3, while there were 665 appeals not relating to land, the average costs of which amounted to Rs. 15-9-8. From this it would seem that about half the appeals before Commissioners in the richer Divisions, where land is valuable, are connected with the land, and that the nominal value of them is low as compared with the importance attached to them by suitors.

Disposal of appeals in Commissioners' Courts.

148. Appeals were disposed of by Commissioners, as follows :—

Divisions.	Appeals for disposal.			Disposed of	Pending.	Over two months.	Over four months.	Average duration.
	Remaining from 1870.	Instituted in 1871.	Total.					
Dehli ...	29	318	347	292	55	19	2	37
Hissár ...	5	149	154	140	14	1	...	20
Ambálah ...	16	349	365	278	87	29	1	27
Jálandhar ...	100	781	881	771	108	12	22	75
Amritsar ...	581	805	1,386	1,313	73	60	10	119
Lahore ...	28	546	574	549	25	3	1	31
Ráwalpindi ...	59	388	447	437	10	2	1	46
Multán ...	15	213	228	178	50	32	4	49
Deraját ...	20	293	313	194	119	11	57	82
Pesháwar ...	82	99	181	178	3	...	...	125
Total, ... 1871	935	3,941	4,876	4,330	544	169	107	55
Total, ... 1870	458	4,122	4,580	3,646	934	140	446	46

149. The proportion of orders confirmed is one per cent. lower than in 1870, and three per cent. higher than in 1869. The proportion reversed shows an increase of 1·4 per cent. The increase occurred chiefly in the Lahore Division, where the proportion of reversals was 22·2 per cent. against 19 per cent. in 1870.

150. Appeals were remanded freely in the Amritsar Division, and also in Lahore. In the Deraját, the number of remands was higher than in other Divisions, but much lower than last year.

151. Additional evidence was called for in 33 cases, as compared with 58 in 1870. Most of the cases occurred in Jálandhar and Lahore.

152. Remands for trial of issues show an increase in the Amritsar Division, where 134 cases were so referred, but in other Divisions there was a decrease.

153. The value and costs of appeals in Commissioners' Courts was as follows :—

SCALE OF VALUATION.	Number of appeals.	Aggregate value of appeals.	Aggregate cost of appeals.	Average value of appeals.	Average cost of appeals.	Percentage of costs to value.
Not exceeding Rupees 5	207	716	624	3 7 4	3 0 2	87 2 5
„ „ 20	895	10,035	2,949	11 3 5	3 4 9	29 6 2
„ „ 100	1,906	1,00,815	18,364	52 14 4	9 10 1	18 3 5
„ „ 500	964	2,17,762	23,165	225 14 3	24 0 5	10 10 2
„ „ 1,000	184	1,21,553	10,869	660 9 5	59 1 1	8 15 0
„ „ 5,000	128	2,31,912	16,629	1,811 0 5	129 14 7	7 2 9
„ „ 10,000	15	1,09,803	12,979	7,320 3 2	865 3 3	11 13 1
„ „ 1,00,000	1	13,499	594	13,499 0 0	594 0 0	4 6 6
Total ...	4,350	8,06,095	86,173	187 7 5	20 0 7	10 11 0

APPEALS TO THE CHIEF COURT.

154. There has again been an increase in appeals instituted. Regular appeals show a decrease of 32, and special appeals an increase of 233, the net result being an increase of 201 appeals.

155. The increase occurs chiefly in appeals from the Lahore and Amritsar Districts, and consists chiefly of suits connected with land.

156. The appeals for disposal, including those pending from previous year, were—

Regular	...	414
Special	...	1416
Total	..	1830

Of which were disposed of—

Regular	...	366
Special	..	1308
Total	...	1674

Leaving pending—

Regular	...	48
Special	...	108
Total	...	156

157. The work disposed of exceeds that of any former year.

158. The average duration decreased from 52 to 34 days.

159. The appeals were disposed of as shown in the following statement, which includes the figures of the five preceding years.

Years.	Number of appeals disposed of.	Appeals withdrawn, transferred, or struck off, for default, and dismissed under Sec. 7, Act VII of 1868		Confirmed.		Modified.		Reversed.		Remanded.		Average duration.
		Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent.	Number.	Per cent	Number.	Per cent.	
1866 ..	1,299	919	17·8	235	18·1	16	1·2	57	4·4	72	5·5	40
1867	1,311	493	37·6	515	39·0	46	3·5	136	10·3	121	9·0	53
1868 ..	1,066	411	38·5	411	38·5	35	3·2	144	13·5	65	6·0	40
1869 .	1,179	506	43·0	433	36·7	32	2·7	145	12·3	63	5·3	56
1870 ...	1,608	827	51·4	529	32·9	23	1·4	159	9·2	70	4·4	52
1871 ..	1,674	865	51·6	514	30·7	17	1·0	190	11·3	88	5·3	34

160. The value and costs of appeals in the Chief Court are shown in the following statement :—

Valuation of Suits.	Appeals in Suits other than for land.						Land Suits.								
	Number of suits.	Aggregate value of suits.	Aggregate cost of suits.	Average value of suits.	Average cost of suits.	Percentage of costs to value.	Number of suits.	Aggregate value of suits.	Aggregate cost of suits.	Average value of suits.	Average cost of suits.	Per-centage of costs to value.
Not exceeding Rs. 5	19	75	86	3 15 2	4 8 5	114 10 8	57	177	258	3 1 8	4 8 5	145 12 2
„ „ „ 20	129	1,821	646	14 1 10	5 ... 1	35 7 7	169	2,178	982	12 14 2	5 12 11	45 1 4
„ „ „ 100	280	16,476	2,692	58 13 6	9 9 9	16 5 5	302	16,078	3,207	53 3 9	10 9 10	19 15 1
„ „ „ 500	170	40,588	4,837	238 12 ..	28 7 3	11 14 8	172	36,620	4,823	212 12 8	28 .. 7	13 2 8
„ „ „ 1,000	33	24,342	2,604	737 10 2	78 14 6	10 11 2	20	14,077	1,776	703 13 7	88 14 9	12 7 5
„ „ „ 5,000	30	57,922	5,637	1,930 11 8	187 14 4	9 11 8	11	16,955	1,933	1,541 5 9	175 11 7	11 6 5
„ „ 10,000	5	31,341	3,191	6,268 3 2	638 3 2	10 2 1	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „ 100,000	4	86,023	2,783	21,505 12 ...	695 12 ..	3 3 9	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total, ...	670	258,588	22,476	385 15 2	33 8 8	8 11 1	731	86,085	12,979	117 12 2	17 12 1	15 1 2

161. The value of Court Fees and Process Fees filed in the Court during the year was Rs. 31,574.

162. The aggregate value of the appeals was

Land suits	Rs.	86,085
Other suits	„	2,58,588
Total ...	Rs.	3,44,673

This is very much lower than last year, owing to there having been in that year three suits of a value aggregating Rs. 4,10,000.

163. The great bulk of the suits do not exceed Rs. 500 in value, the number of suits not for land decreased in each class.

164. There were 598 suits of a value not exceeding Rs. 500 against 773 in 1871. On the other hand, there were 700 land suits of a value not exceeding Rs. 500 against 553 in 1871.

165. If the three exceptional cases of 1871 be excluded, it will be seen that the work of the Court has increased considerably both in its extent and in the value of the interests affected by it, because the actual value of most of the land suits is much higher than the nominal value on which the plaint is estimated.

166. Besides the above appellate work, the Chief Court disposed of four original Civil cases under Section 11 Act IV. of 1866. 45 cases under the summary procedure on Bills of Exchange, Act V. of 1866, 25 cases referred by Small Cause Courts, three cases under the Indian Divorce Act, and two cases under the Indian Succession Act, X. of 1865.

APPEALS IN ALL COURTS.

167. The annexed statement shows the number of cases appealable and appealed in all Appellate Courts. Last year there was a slight decrease in appeals. This year there is a very slight increase, chiefly in Commissioners' Courts.

APPELLATE COURTS.		Number of cases decided on the merits, and appealable to Appellate Courts.	Cases appealed.		Number of cases for disposal by Appellate Courts, including cases remaining from 1870.	Withdrawn transferred, or struck off, on default, and dismissed under Section 7 Act VII. of 1868.		Confirmed.		Modified.		Reversed.		Remanded.		Total disposed of.	Pending at close of 1871.	Average duration.
			Number.	Per-centage to appealable cases.		Number.	Per-centage to appellate cases.	Number.	Per-centage to appellate cases.	Number.	Per-centage to appellate cases.	Number.	Per-centage to appellate cases.	Number.	Per-centage to appellate cases.			
Deputy Commissioners ...	1870	40,572	7,161	17·6	7,486	423	6·2	4,177	61·5	436	6·4	934	13·7	818	12·0	6,788	698	27
	1871	44,357	8,022	18·0	8,720	541	6·5	5,125	61·9	549	6·6	1,219	14·7	836	10	8,270	450	27
Commissioners	1870	15,710	4,122	26·2	4,580	270	7·4	2,332	64·0	221	6·0	540	14·8	283	7·7	3,646	934	46
	1871	13,223	3,941	29·8	4,876	285	6·6	2,730	63·0	224	5·1	704	16·2	387	8·9	4,330	544	55
Chief Court	1870	7,270	1,442	19·8	1,790	827	51·4	529	32·9	23	1·4	159	9·2	70	4·4	1,608	182	52
	1871	8,783	1,648	18·7	1,830	865	51·6	514	30·7	17	1·0	190	11·3	88	5·3	1,674	156	34
Total ...	1870	63,552	12,725	20·	13,856	1,520	12·6	7,038	58·4	680	5·6	1,633	13·5	1,171	9·7	12,042	1,814	...
	1871	66,363	13,611	20·5	15,426	1,691	11·8	8,369	58·6	790	5·5	2,113	14·8	1,311	9·2	14,274	1,150	...

168. Considering that the proportion of cases appealed to cases appealable in Deputy Commissioners' Courts is only 18 per cent. it can scarcely be said that the liberty of appeal is abused, or that there is any urgent necessity for restricting the right of appeal from the lower grades of Courts to the lowest Appellate Courts, by making cases below a certain value unappealable. Some officers advocate such a restriction. Others would give final powers up to a certain value to officers with full powers and of a certain standing. Even this is scarcely to be advocated. There were about 12,000 regular appeals out of about 219,000 original suits decided, or a little over 5 per cent. It is in the Courts of Original Jurisdiction rather than in the Appellate Courts that pressure is felt.

Employment of Pleaders.

169. The subject of the employment of pleaders is noticed in most of the local reports. More than one officer notices the inconvenience that arises when only one side is represented by a pleader. In such cases it is necessary that the proceedings should be conducted in Urdú, so as to be intelligible to the opposite party. One Deputy Commissioner recommends that a fixed scale be prescribed for the remuneration of pleaders, and remarks that the success of pleaders is apt to cause discontent among the subordinate native officials.

Summonses for final disposal of suits.

170. During the year efforts were made to encourage the issue of summonses for final disposal of suits. This system is gradually extending itself, and being better appreciated. It tends to the more prompt disposal of the proceedings. But the courts are enjoined to grant postponement for reasonable cause so as to prevent all hardship in the operation of the rule. In Rohtak, the use of red paper for such summonses was found advantageous.

GENERAL.

Supervision of Subordinate Courts.

171. The inspection of the proceedings of Subordinate Courts has been frequently enjoined on Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, but the time at their disposal does not enable them to discharge this duty as completely as is to be desired. The duty has, however, been efficiently discharged by Major McMahon, Commissioner of Hissár. The Commissioner of Rawalpindi reviewed a considerable number of cases.

172. The scrutiny of the monthly and quarterly returns by Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners is insisted on, and with the quarterly returns Commissioners are required to furnish an explanatory memorandum. Frequent explanations are called for by the Chief Court, which necessitate examination of files by local officers.

173. Occasionally also irregularities and delay in particular cases that come before the Court are commented upon by letter. In the early part of the year, Mr. Justice Campbell inspected the records of a number of Courts on the frontier, and shortly after the close of the year a number of Courts in the Ambála and Dehli Divisions. By all these means the procedure of Subordinate Courts comes under constant observation, and is rendered more and more efficient.

174. The reports of Commissioners were received in this office on the following dates :—

Lahore, 16th February 1872.	Ráwalpindi, 7th March.
Hissár, 19th „	Amritsar, 11th „
Dehli, 4th March	Pesháwar, 11th March.
Umbálah, 4th „	Deraját, 30th April.
Jálandhar, 7th „	Multán, 10th May.

I have &c.,

(Sd.) J. A. E. MILLER,

Officiating Registrar.

EXTRACTS

FROM

CIVIL ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

OF

DISTRICTS AND DIVISIONS

For the year 1871.

Extracts from the Civil Administration Report of MAJOR E. PASKE, *Officiating Commissioner of the Jálandhar Division for the year 1871.*

In the pressure of work in our Courts, I find that many officers, while they too readily avail themselves of the provisions of the first clauses of Section 119 of Act VIII in passing judgments ex-parte, and in dismissing cases in default of appearance of plaintiff, are not sufficiently considerate, and do not avail themselves as they should do of the provision of the clause which permits them to set such judgements aside on sufficient cause being shown As a rule, the largest proportion of cases struck off in default and not re-admitted are in the courts of officers who wish to get over their work rapidly, and who give less time and thought to their cases, and show the least consideration to suitors; the courts of these officers are not popular

Execution of decree cases are the class of suits that give most trouble, the most prolific source of appeal that really take up the most time in the Appellate Courts, the class of cases in which, perhaps, Pleaders feed the most, and in which they find the richest harvest, and last though not least, the class of cases in which there is the most injustice either to decree-holders or judgment debtors, most frequently to the latter; and I may add the class of cases in which there is most scope for collusion and dishonesty on the part of native officials in the courts.

It is an easy matter for a creditor to obtain a decree: difficulties commence with the first attempt to execute it. The decree-holder has the vantage ground, and generally carries it through, but after a hard struggle and at considerable cost, with result sadly, but I fear truthfully, pictured by Mr. Donald, Judge of the Hoshiárpúr Small Cause Court, in his Annual Report. Mr. Donald's remarks deserve perusal as pourtraying the experience of one who has looked below the surface and knows well how the machinery of our courts is used.

I would suggest, for the consideration of the Chief Court, that all Civil Courts should be called upon to look more carefully to the files in execution of decrees. As far as possible, let every case be disposed of in the court in which the decree was given, and compel officers to record all their orders in their own hand-writing in their own vernacular. In each execution of decree file append a blank paper, in which the Judge should note in his own hand-writing the date and substance of every order given in the case.

Also in the sale of property attached in execution of decree, let the moveable property be more frequently sold in the actual presence of the Judge; this course, adopted now and then, would at all events effect one end: the judgment-debtor's property would realize its proper value. Mr. Donald's scheme of taking every opportunity to allow the payment of judgment debt by instalments is one that commends itself to my mind as desirable to be more frequently brought into practice. The real secret of the pressure of our Civil Courts upon the agricultural classes is that we have legitimatized usurious rates of interest fixed in the days when might was right, and when the creditor could not secure the aid of a Civil Court to assist in the recovery of his dues. In those days, before annexation, usurious rates of interest were the necessary compensation for great risk. But conditions are altered now—every facility is afforded for the recovery of just dues. We have removed the risks formerly incurred by the creditor, but we retain the pressure upon the debtor; it is this usurious rate of interest we have legitimatized that is hastening the ruin of our agricultural communities in the Panjáb Agriculturists not unfrequently make the remark—"Interest, compound interest, and nothing but interest, decreed to our creditors in the Courts, is our ruin."

I would also draw the attention of the Chief Court to the now too-prevailing custom of substituting new bonds for old ones, by which not only are our limitation rules defeated, but the creditor recovers an undue proportion of interest; as a remedy, I would suggest that when these bonds are produced, as far as possible the terms and conditions of the old bond

should be more fully ascertained and recorded, and, wherever practicable, the old bonds should be produced,—in short every effort should be made for the Court to satisfy itself that the consideration of the bond has been duly received.

I have to observe here that, in my opinion, the Revenue Administration of districts is suffering from the pressure of work in the Civil Department. I would urge that officers, and more especially young officers, should have more leisure to learn and to look into the details of the Revenue Department. Officers do not now move about their districts, and mix so freely as they used to, with rural notables and agricultural communities; they are too much tied down by work in Court, and, as the consequence, they do not now-a-days win the confidence and good will of the agricultural classes, among whom, if there is truth in the past history of nations, will always be found the test of the strength and manhood of a country.

An observation of the late Sir John Malcolm on the training of young officers has always struck me as carrying great force and truth, and I cannot refrain from repeating it here, as being so applicable to these times when our young Assistants are taught to think more about their Civil suits than almost any other branch of their work :—

"The Revenue Assistant commences his course by placing himself among the people in an easy and unreserved manner; the Judicial by elevating himself above them, with a distant and commanding air; the former employed in learning from its springs, and ties the rudiments of a novel species of policy; the latter without any light in determining its rights and usages."

In closing this memorandum, I would emphatically observe that we want rest; reformers have been precipitate enough, and they have effected vast changes—whether for good or evil time only can show. But let us wait and watch effects before further legislative enactments are showered upon this Province to add to the bewilderment of officers and the people.

Extracts from the Civil Administration Report of MR. P. H. EGERTON, *Commissioner of the Rawalpindi Division for the year* 1871.

This is the only opportunity I have of making a few remarks regarding the proposed separation of the Judicial and Administrative Departments.

Separation of Judicial and Administrative Departments.

In the first place it is palpable that the vast increase of judicial work requires additional officers to dispose of it. This being (as it must be) conceded, the next question is how that increase of officers may be best employed for the good of the people.

I think that having distinct establishments in the same district will harass the people, especially the agriculturists, as it has been found to do (I make bold to say) in the North-Western Provinces.

The separation of the Revenue and Judicial Courts is sure to be the signal for Pleaders and Mukhtárs to join the latter, and this, though not of itself perhaps an evil so long as those persons are intelligent, pains-taking, and honest, yet has the effect of enabling those who have the means to employ their services greatly to harass the poor classes by instituting suits of different kinds in different courts at once.

Also, in a political point of view, it will weaken the hands of the District Officer, now looked on as possessing an infallible panacea for every evil, when the people find him quite powerless to interfere or check malpractices of the subordinate Judicial Courts, and it will distract them from the undivided loyalty they now have to their District Officer by creating two heads to the district.

It is obvious, too, that in many cases most intimately connected with the welfare of the agricultural classes in which the District Officer is best qualified to decide, and in which he will have a certain summary jurisdiction, such as rent, partition, and boundaries of land

the action of the Revenue Authorities will be liable to be set aside by that of (even inferior) Civil Courts, and this must necessarily lessen the District Officer's power for good. The system has been tried in the North-Western Provinces, and certainly the results are not such as to encourage us to try it here. In districts where there are powerful zamíndárs, the ryots are ground down to a state of half-starved subserviency, and where there are village communities, our system is most unpopular; witness their action in 1857.

But here the people are even less ready for the introduction of a red tape rule, than in the North-Western Provinces, and it will not be easy, when once we have sacrificed the steady driving which has hitherto steered the "Panjáb Coach" so well, by putting two men on the driving box, when once we have disgusted the people, to revert to non-regulation rule, as was done when the Sonthals rebelled.

The system now in force of making the District Officer the one head of every department has worked well at all events in keeping the people as a mass loyal and contented and I would ask what is the object of altering that system? I believe there are but two reasons given—1st, that the Judicial work will be better done by a specially trained class of officers; and, 2nd, that the Judicial work now interferes with the fiscal and administrative duties. I would reply to both these reasons by saying—*try first what will be the effect of giving additional aid under the present system.* Districts are now in many instances kept, during the hot months especially, grossly under-handed. Government "admit" it, but regret their inability to send another officer. Look at Gujrát during the latter half of the past year as an example.

Then surely it is only wise and reasonable to try the effect of allowing District Officers a proper amount of assistance before you uproot a system which has worked well for 23 years, and which you can never restore.

The present system of registration has not given rise to the full amount of advantage hoped for, because the people have adopted an inveterate practice of paying only part of a consideration before, and retaining the rest to be paid after completion of registration.

This is so well known that the Courts cannot refuse to listen to such a plea, and so we are reduced to what it was intended to avoid, viz., the hearing of verbal testimony against the registered deed.

I think appeal-writers should be controlled in some way; at present they virtually occupy the ground of Pleaders and Mookhtárs, though without appearing in Court. The people insist on having some "Quanoonecoozurs," or legal objections, embodied in their appeals, under the impression that they produce more effect, and I do not see why a person who puts forward written pleas should be under less stringent rules than those who plead verbally.

Extracts from the Civil Administration Report of LT.-COLL. S. F. GRAHAM, *Commissioner of the Multán Division for* 1871.

I believe that too great pressure is put on the Courts in the matter of duration of cases and appeals generally, which has the effect of making the court officers work for themselves rather than for the people—a result which must seriously injure the administration.

I think the test of Judicial work should rather be the quality and thoroughness of it, and the few appearances of the parties in the case. If the above are attained, the duration is of far less consequence. I think that where the Appellate Courts are burdened with so much executive work, it would be better to extend the duration, in order to secure more thorough investigation and more certainty of the cases being disposed of on the days fixed for hearing.

The only way to do this, if seems to me, is to fix so few cases for hearing each day that there is almost a certainty of their being heard and disposed of on those days; or, if

not, that the arrears can easily be pulled up; but this would at once or soon put most of the cases pending beyond two months, and lead to explanations and censure; the consequence is that more cases are fixed for hearing each day (with reference to average duration); the hearing is interrupted by executive work; arrears accumulate, which are difficult or impossible to overcome; parties are kept waiting, and perhaps at last the cases postponed. These interruptions under the present system must take place; the result is, no doubt, harrassing to the people, who would far rather be less harassed and their cases remain longer on the file on condition that they were left in peace at their homes and their cases eventually received a fair hearing. In all this, and in the way in which cases, original and appeal, are hurried over at the end of the month and year, in order to show good averages, it appears to me we are working for ourselves, and not for the people. I know that in many cases appeals are put in for the sole purpose of staving off justice, but there would be the greater certainty of cases being heard on certain fixed days, and little chance of postponements; each case would get a fair share of hearing, instead of as now the average of postponed or delayed cases being made up by rapidity in clearing off others. Following up my recommendation, in the matter of diary of witnesses I would recommend that a list should be kept of the number of appellants in attendance in court each day, with the number of days entered opposite each and brought forward from day to day, signed by the Judge before he leaves Court; the list should be signed by the Judge himself, no other signature would be reliable, and he should be responsible for it; this would show at once the amount of harrassment of the people, and the delay in disposal of the case would be of less consequence.

Referring to the very large number of suits instituted for sums under Rs. 100, and to the large proportion of cases dismissed for default and uncontested, it would seem advisable to provide some other means of disposing of these petty accounts, and thus to set free the court officers for the better discharge of their Judicial work, and the due performance of their executive duties.

Were these petty cases (which are now hurried through the courts along with the more important ones in their race for averages) otherwise disposed of, and only the large contested cases admitted to the courts, it would, I believe, add to the dignity and leisure of the courts, and to the better hearing of the cases on certain fixed dates to the great advantage and convenience of the people; at the same time better work should be expected and greater time given.

The agency I would propose for disposing of these petty suits might be either Small Cause Courts, Honorary Local Courts of Arbitration, or Small Cause Courts presided over by Native Judges, with appeal beyond Rs. 50. What we want is more leisure to the court officers to be devoted to better Judicial work, and to the performance of their Executive duties without severing the European Officers from the great mass of the people, which I believe would be the effect of appointing separate European Judges.

Extracts from the Civil Administration Report of MR. WAKEFIELD, *Deputy Commissioner of Jhang, for* 1871.

The only point which has struck me is that the increase of litigation is an undoubted evil, and that, with the large class of money-lenders existing in the country, the tendency is to resort to litigation as a rule rather than an exception. It has been laid down that a very litigious community cannot be a very happy one, and it is not therefore desirable that the resort to litigation become very general; where there is a large thrifty and intelligent class of money-lenders they must ply their trade, and the result is that every petty landholder, even when well off, *banks* on a small scale with his baniah, and gets quite out of the groove of cash payments and purchases. It is in the interest of the money-lender to encourage this, and when accounts are made up, the lender who keeps an account has the coustomer at his mercy.

The rapid and effective action of our laws and courts seems in every way to favor the lender, while the other class appear as a class to be going to the wall. The large transfers of land, either on sale or mortgage, which go on, do not appear in our Civil records at all, but that they do occur is an undoubted fact, and the cause is partly the action of our laws and courts.

The facilities for recovery of money recklessly lent, and on which extortionate interest and other charges have been heaped, should not be *too great*, and, as an illustration of my argument, I cannot do better than invite attention to the somewhat ridiculous case of the litigious petty confectioner above noted, who, rather than establish cash rates and ready and honest (because immediate) payment, preferred a system of trade which led to his resorting 500 times to the Civil Courts to recover his money.

Extracts from the Annual Civil Report of MR. TOLBORT, *Deputy Commissioner of Montgomery, for* 1871.

Under this head I would suggest that the transfers of Ministerial and Tahsíl officials may, with advantage, be brought under some supervision and control by central authority. I do not mean that the patronage of local officers should be lessened, or their responsibility weakened, but I would submit that the subject has been unduly ignored in its general and provincial aspect. In Bengal, I believe the amlá are moved periodically from district to district. Would not a moderate adoption of this practice be productive of good in the Panjáb? The statistics submitted with each annual report do not show the per-centage of cases tainted by bribery, but the existence of corruption can scarcely be doubted. With all diffidence I would submit that remedial measures in this respect are more urgently required than fresh modifications of the law or organic changes in the Commission.

Passing from this general question to a matter which, though one of detail, is connected with it, and is in my opinion of some importance, I would bring to your notice the unsatisfactory status of the Tahsíl Judicial Moharrirs. They only receive Rs. 15 a month, whereas the lowest Judicial Moharrir at the Sadr gets Rs. 20. I would reverse the proportion, appoint new men first at the Sadr, transfer them on promotion to the Tahsíl, and generally endeavour to keep up a healthy exchange of readers to and fro.

I am not acquainted with the circumstances of other districts, but if enquiry were made, I think many cases would be found where Judicial Moharrirs have been allowed to stagnate ten or fifteen years in one Tahsíl, unheeded by the Sadr Officers, hopeless of promotion, and sorely tempted to make the best of their lot by practices of corruption.

Extracts from the Report of MR. A. E. S. DONALD, *Judge of the Hoshiárpúr Court of Small Causes, for the year* 1871.

Execution of Decrees.

The Execution Department has been very active, and I am glad to say the judgment-debtors have been able in a large number of cases to prevent the sale of their property by keeping to their instalments. It appeared to me that our system of executing decrees was eating up the very vitals of the agricultural classes. In the first place the rates of interest in this district were very exorbitant, and most of the debts by the system of renewing bonds consisted of nothing but of interest and compound interest, and that very small debts had swelled to enormous proportions, and that it was hopeless to see the debtor released without interference of the court. I observed that no sooner did the money-lender get his decree than he brought everything of the judgment-debtor to sale. His grain, his plough bullocks, and all his household property, was sold. The decree-holder forthwith took a bond with 30 per cent. interest

for the balance of any amount remaining unpaid in the decree. As the sowing season came round, the judgment-debtor was persuaded to take, as it were, his own grain and his own plough bullocks at the money-lender's price, and give another bond, the amount to be paid in so much grain. As the harvest came round, the decree-holder then sued on the bond, which formed part of the unsatisfied decree, and having obtained this he forthwith distrained the crop. In this way the unfortunate judgment-debtors were perpetually harassed; they could not even hope to enjoy the fruits of their labors,—in fact were becoming slaves to the money-lender. This was not the only evil; when they were sued, or just before the suit, their first object was to sell their crops to one party, to pass the bullocks on to another, and secrete their few household goods, and then, when summoned to make good their pleas, by false swearing and false witness. My experience in this district proved to me that to give a decree was merely to force the judgment-debtors to give a bond with 30 per cent. as the only means of saving himself and putting off the evil day, but the evil day must at last overtake these unfortunate men.

As the only means of averting so great an evil, I had resort to fixing fair instalments, proportioned to the means of the debtor. The Court has a discretion, and I insist on it. The result has been that in 2,586 executions, Rs. 53,666 have been recovered; of this Rs. 17,250 without any coercion. There is not that anxiety to hide property and write fictitious bonds conveying crops before institution of the suits. A fair claim is always admitted, as the debtor knows he will be allowed to pay according to his means. A respectable native remarked to me that there was more "truth told" now that instalments were fixed; meaning no doubt that people were not afraid to admit fair claims.

The system involves some trouble, but, if good results, I will consider myself well compensated.

Extracts from the Civil Administration Report of MR. J. C. CORDERY, *Deputy Commissioner Gujránwála, for the year* 1871.

General remarks.

The main features of the returns this year is the enormous increase of one thousand per cent. in suits on bonded debt, carrying as it does a general increase of twenty per cent shown in 1870 over 1869. The circumstances of the Rechna are very different from those of the lower Doábs. The mass of the people are much more backward, and were only weaned from a comparatively nomad life about 70 years ago. The increase of litigation amongst (I should rather say against) these men is no sign of prosperity in the district, but of a steady increasing adversity, caused mainly by their own unsettled and careless mode of managing their affairs, partly also by a succession of bad seasons, but partly, I must add, by the rigid action of our courts in dealing with the transactions between them and their Sháhs. We must associate the pressure shown in these returns, and brought to bear upon the cultivating by the money-lending class, with the registered transfers of land, which are also multiplying at nearly as speedy a rate. In 1869, for instance, there were 1,008 such mutations; in 1870, 970; and in the year under report, not fewer than 1,395. Indeed, a rise in litigation of the sort now noticed, so far from representing, in this part of the country, the popularity of our mode of administering justice, is a mark of the steady encroachment of the Khattrí and Arúrá on the Ját communities, a change which is certainly regretted, and is opposed and obstructed by every shifty lying trick the Ját can devise. But whatever the progress of this revolution, the courts having nothing to do with it, except to see that it is not hastened by any undue operation of their own system of working in favor of either one side or the other. Can we truly say this? If I may judge from the proportion of cases examined by me, very many suits on bond are in reality suits on account (under which head it will be noted that no increase appears). These bonds are given on balances acknowledged when the period of limitation is just expiring, or in seasons when all that the agriculturist desires is to obtain a fresh advance, or, at any rate, a part payment of settlement. There is an increasing tendency in

every Court (partly due to press of work, partly to its accordance with western ideas) to regard every such acknowledgment as a fresh starting point, which cannot legally be impugned at all. The nature of the consideration is in this view not an issue that can be raised. The result is that the shortening of the period of limitation, which was intended as a boon to the cultivator, has turned into his loss, for the shortening of the period multiplies such bonds, and interest runs upon them as though no interest was included in the sums acknowledged by them.

The stereotyped answer to this is that experience will gradually teach the zamíndár that he must not give such acknowledgments. But the traditional habits of a race are not to be altered in a day, and considerable as is the scale on which this teaching of men by their ruin appears to go on, it cannot be said to be successful; and I believe, in the present state of general enlightenment, the majority will have to be ruined before it is so. Moreover, the fact that so many Judges hold themselves to be precluded from listening to the real defence, is one of the reasons why false defences and false evidence have been so rapidly on the increase of late years. In denouncing this deterioration to men of comparative independence, and in pointing out that it certainly seems more prevalent than when I was in the Panjáb ten years since, I have been more than once met with the reply that, if the cultivator confines himself to the truth, he is simply told that "he must pay; if he is being cheated, it is his own fault."

And there is truth in such an order. All I would desire is that the orignal courts should remember oftener than now is the case that there are bonds and bonds, and that the exercise of a large discretion should be authoritatively prescribed to them in this matter. They would then find that in many instances the nature of the consideration is a point which equity demands that they should go into, and one great motive for their present false pleas would be taken away. Above all, it would, I think, be both a feasible and an excellent measure to encourage the formation of village panchâyets whenever any considerable balances are struck, for bonds so taken and authenticated would of course be quite conclusive.

Extracts from the Civil Administration Report of MAJOR MAXWELL, *Deputy Commissioner of the Firozpúr District, for the year* 1871.

Arbitration and Commission.

I dissent from those officers who look unfavorably on arbitration as an agency for the adjustment of disputes. I think it a very useful and desirable agency for that purpose. I disbelieve in anything like general venality on the part of Arbitrators.

They generally know much more about the matters in dispute than European Officers at all events are likely to know, and when they err, the odium falls on the countrymen of the parties, not directly on the British.

Extracts from the Civil Administration Report of MR. T. D. FORSYTH, *Commissioner Ambálah Division, for the year* 1871.

Arbitration and Commission.

Apparently it is considered a good sign that the people are gradually abandoning arbitration in favor of decision by our courts.

Of course, if the question of the popularity of our courts be the only consideration, I concur in this view, but I cannot view with satisfaction the decline, more or less rapid, of the panchâyet system, which for ages has worked so well in this land.

Pleaders.

I have only lately rejoined after two and a half year's absence from Judicial work, and I find a marked change in the working of our courts. Cases are disposed of, as a rule, much more according to the strict requirements of the Codes than formerly.

There are far less irregularities of procedure than in old days, but there is no attempt made to help out an ignorant litigant, and apparently injustice is sometimes the consequence of a strict adherence to law.

The result of course of all this must be to drive the people to have recourse to Pleaders into whose hands they completely resign themselves, knowing nothing of the process, and merely watching the result. I have had appeals before me in which the appellant knew nothing of the grounds of appeal, having left it all to his Pleader.

The rule which I adopt as the only satisfactory one to myself, and I hope to the parties also, is to secure, if possible, the presence of both Appellant and Respondent whether they have employed Pleaders or not, then to go through the whole case *in vernacular* from beginning to end in their presence, hear all that each party has to say, and then to hear what the Pleaders may have to urge in addition.

This undoubtedly causes some delay; I dare say I shall not show such good work average as others do, but I look upon Judicial work as a matter between myself and my conscience, and I prefer this to making a good show in returns; at the same time no undue delay shall be allowed by me.

The papers presented in appeal only give the judgment—they do not contain the evidence *in extenso*, and yet this evidence generally has to be overhauled most carefully. Given the facts, the judgments of officers are not generally erroneous, but in most cases the alleged facts require the closest investigation. My experience then induces me to dispose of very few appeals without calling for the files.

APPENDIX No. I.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ENTIRE CIVIL BUSINESS

OF THE

DISTRICTS OF THE PANJAB,

DURING 1870 AND 1871.

APPENDIX

GENERAL COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE ENTIRE CIVIL BUSINESS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Number of cases on the file.				Disposed of without decree.					Decree		
Division.	District.	Pending from last year.	Instituted in 1871.	Received by transfer.	Total for disposal.	Transferred.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn with leave, Section 97, Act VIII. of 1859.	Adjusted by mutual agreement under Section 98 of Act VIII of 1859.	Total.	Without: Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed ex-parte.
DEHLI.	Dehli 1870	163	7,864	...	8,027	2	495	260	475	1,232	1,011	2,520	537
	Dehli 1871	377	8,555	2	8,934	...	885	88	555	1,528	1,395	2,806	619
	Gurgáon 1870	42	1,996	...	2,038	1	217	...	269	487	291	555	59
	Gurgáon 1871	57	2,463	...	2,520	...	230	6	596	832	...	930	91
	Karnál 1870	96	3,372	...	3,468	1	377	...	745	1,123	...	1,338	186
	Karnál 1871	127	3,763	1	3,891	1	417	64	859	1,341	...	1,224	206
	Total 1870	301	13,232	...	13,533	4	1,089	260	1,489	2,842	1,302	4,413	782
	Total 1871	561	14,781	3	15,345	1	1,532	158	2,010	3,701	1,395	4,960	916
	Difference	+260	+1,549	+3	+1,812	—3	+443	—102	+521	+859	+93	+547	+134
HISSAR.	Hissár 1870	14	2,620	...	2,634	...	182	305	117	604	101	1,239	150
	Hissár 1871	46	2,432	...	2,478	...	191	104	258	553	146	1,078	135
	Rohtak 1870	4	2,382	...	2,386	1	83	4	435	523	215	821	126
	Rohtak 1871	14	2,402	...	2,416	...	133	9	411	553	194	779	163
	Sirsa 1870	15	1,375	...	1,390	2	143	13	167	325	1	429	165
	Sirsa 1871	49	1,354	...	1,403	...	146	60	79	285	19	379	188
	Total 1870	33	6,377	...	6,410	3	408	322	719	1,452	317	2,489	441
	Total 1871	109	6,188	...	6,297	...	470	173	748	1,391	359	2,236	486
	Difference	+76	—189	...	—113	—3	+62	—149	+29	—61	+42	—253	+45
AMBALAH.	Ambálah 1870	299	8,930	2	9,231	...	1,330	51	871	2,252	883	2,132	568
	Ambálah 1871	342	9,032	1	9,375	...	1,514	128	1,088	2,730	529	2,112	624
	Ludianah 1870	112	8,612	...	8,724	1	619	24	200	844	1,366	3,221	273
	Ludianah 1871	267	8,284	...	8,551	1	658	76	673	1,408	726	3,066	382
	Simla 1870	41	2,918	1	2,960	...	304	54	464	822	41	636	398
	Simla 1871	76	2,866	...	2,942	4	240	57	400	701	33	540	380
	Total 1870	452	20,460	3	20,915	1	2,253	129	1,535	3,918	2,290	5,989	1,239
	Total 1871	685	20,182	1	20,868	5	2,412	261	2,161	4,839	1,288	5,718	1,386
	Difference	+233	—278	—2	—47	+4	+159	+132	+626	+921	—1,002	—271	+147
JALANDHAR.	Jálandhar 1870	596	11,298	1	11,897	...	2,086	77	1,123	3,286	174	2,912	650
	Jálandhar 1871	607	13,201	...	13,808	...	3,162	106	1,188	4,456	126	3,410	1,199
	Hoshiárpúr 1870	1,429	16,639	...	18,068	2	2,507	62	1,709	4,280	1,217	4,396	662
	Hoshiárpúr 1871	989	17,412	...	18,401	2	2,974	186	1,292	4,454	933	4,892	629
	Kángra 1870	263	6,651	...	6,914	1	696	163	492	1,352	251	1,568	292
	Kángra 1871	351	6,317	...	6,668	...	753	145	573	1,471	213	1,509	329
	Total 1870	2,290	34,588	1	36,879	3	5,289	302	3,324	8,918	1,642	8,876	1,604
	Total 1871	1,947	36,930	...	38,877	2	6,889	437	3,053	10,381	1,272	9,811	2,157
	Difference	—343	+2,342	—1	+1,998	—1	+1,600	+135	—271	+1,463	—370	+935	+553
AMRITSAR.	Amritsar 1870	714	14,124	...	14,838	5	2,673	160	1,113	3,951	1,220	2,797	787
	Amritsar 1871	890	14,190	...	15,080	1	3,208	134	1,106	4,539	996	2,763	927
	Gúrdáspúr 1870	757	12,387	2	13,146	14	2,570	23	1,402	4,009	21	2,266	644
	Gúrdáspúr 1871	907	12,799	1	13,707	2	2,887	41	1,034	3,964	201	2,669	761
	Siálkót 1870	477	15,389	...	15,866	1	3,360	132	1,789	5,282	166	4,123	1,546
	Siálkót 1871	988	16,968	..	17,956	...	3,575	50	1,621	5,246	614	5,372	1,413
	Total 1870	1,948	41,900	2	43,850	20	8,603	315	4,304	13,242	1,407	9,186	2,977
	Total 1871	2,785	43,957	1	46,743	3	9,760	225	3,761	13,749	1,811	10,804	3,101
	Difference	+837	+2,057	—1	+2,893	—17	+1,157	—90	—543	+507	+404	+1,618	+124
LAHORE.	Lahore 1870	872	13,635	....	14,507	...	1,758	138	1,220	3,116	1,376	2,677	1,331
	Lahore 1871	542	15,547	...	16,089	2	2,254	90	916	3,262	1,514	3,820	1,747
	Firozpúr 1870	280	9,198	...	9,478	2	748	205	181	1,136	1,033	2,837	519
	Firozpúr 1871	470	8,702	3	9,175	1	1,092	289	803	2,185	110	2,818	565
	Gújránwála 1870	285	6,056	...	6,341	3	673	31	25	732	984	1,834	283
	Gújránwála 1871	365	8,699	...	9,064	1	1,181	70	373	1,625	836	2,805	420
	Total 1870	1,437	28,889	...	30,326	5	3,179	374	1,426	4,984	3,373	7,345	2,133
	Total 1871	1,377	32,948	3	34,328	4	4,527	449	2,092	7,072	2,460	9,443	2,732
	Difference	—60	+4,059	+3	+4,002	—1	+1,348	+75	+666	+2,088	—913	+2,098	+599

No. I.

OF THE DISTRICTS OF THE PANJAB DURING THE YEARS 1870 AND 1871.

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
PASSED.										AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS EACH CASE LASTED.			MISCELLANEOUS CASES.					
contest.		*With contest.*																
Dismissed ex-parte.	Total.	For Plaintiff, in whole or part.	For Defendant.	Total.	Referred to arbitration.	GRAND TOTAL DISPOSED OF.	Pending at end of year.	Over two months.	Over four months.	Contested.	Uncontested.	General average duration.	Plaints rejected or returned.	Other miscellaneous cases disposed of.	Number of witnesses who appeared without summons.	Number of witnesses who appeared on summons, including parties summoned.	Number of applications for review.	Average number of days the parties or either or any of them had to attend Court.
14	4,082	1,745	460	2,205	131	7,650	377	21	2	13	9	10	25	4,551	5,004	14,710	30	3
...	4,820	1,718	586	2,304	76	8,728	206	23	6	18	10	13	20	6,494	5,365	11,513	36	3
...	905	350	198	548	41	1,981	57	2	1	27	11	18	78	2,542	707	6,152	6	3
1	1,022	398	147	545	44	2,443	77	2	.	32	18	23	171	1,924	1,514	4,685	8	3
...	1,524	379	204	583	111	3,341	127	1	..	25	13	16	89	2,477	736	6,366	86	3
15	1,445	551	255	806	158	3,750	141	2	...	25	15	19	138	2,851	2,552	5,306	25	3
14	6,511	3,474	862	3,336	283	12,972	561	24	3	18	10	12	192	9,570	6,447	27,228	122	3
16	7,287	2,667	988	3,655	278	14,921	424	27	6	22	12	16	329	11,269	9,431	21,504	69	3
+2	+776	+193	+126	+319	— 5	+1,949	— 137	+3	+3	+4	+2	+4	+137	+1,699	+2,984	— 5,724	— 53	...
...	1,490	315	125	440	54	2,588	46	...	...	18	9	11	..	1,715	1,090	322	5	2
1	1,360	298	187	485	49	2,447	31	1	.	13	9	10	26	1,583	1,889	3,392	8	2
...	1,102	450	218	668	19	2,372	14	1	1	16	9	14	11	2,180	2,250	5,514	20	3
8	1,144	483	170	653	35	2,385	31	1	...	19	9	13	78	2,119	2,653	4,426	17	3
4	599	260	132	392	25	1,341	49	...	...	15	12	13	3	933	757	1,725	17	3
6	592	295	158	453	43	1,373	30	...	...	20	17	18	30	955	1,664	2,056	18	3
4	3,251	1,025	475	1,500	98	6,301	109	1	1	16	11	13	14	4,828	6,097	7,561	42	3
15	3,096	1,076	515	1,591	127	6,205	92	2	...	18	10	13	134	4,657	6,206	9,874	43	3
+11	— 155	+51	+40	+91	+29	— 96	— 17	+1	— 1	+2	— 1	.	+120	— 171	+2,109	+2,313	+ 1	...
11	3,594	1,767	943	2,710	333	8,889	342	5	4	24	14	18	224	6,797	5,665	18,408	65	3
46	3,311	1,764	927	2,691	259	8,991	384	8	..	23	15	19	101	6,613	8,345	17,056	80	3
...	4,860	1,746	871	2,617	136	8,457	267	2	1	19	13	14	85	4,328	5,039	16,869	42	3
34	4,208	1,689	876	2,565	118	8,299	252	4	...	20	12	15	339	5,037	7,485	16,630	38	3
11	1,086	761	158	919	57	2,884	76	1	...	15	17	16	67	1,925	321	4,036	28	2
25	978	905	284	1,189	30	2,898	44	3	1	13	12	13	111	1,900	1,007	5,839	7	1
22	9,540	4,274	1,972	6,246	526	20,230	685	8	5	20	14	16	376	13,050	11,025	39,313	135	3
105	8,497	4,358	2,087	6,445	407	20,188	680	15	1	20	13	16	551	13,550	16,837	39,525	125	2
+83	— 1,043	+84	+115	+199	—119	— 42	— 5	+7	— 1	...	— 1	...	+175	+500	+5,812	+212	— 10	— 1
191	3,927	2,601	1,267	3,868	209	11,290	607	16	8	28	17	22	809	6,285	2,944	8,387	206	2
137	4,872	2,215	1,233	3,448	239	13,015	793	6	1	27	15	21	410	7,936	6,833	12,594	84	2
22	6,297	4,379	1,747	6,126	376	17,079	989	4	3	33	17	23	69	6,917	4,621	33,960	49	3
69	6,533	3,917	1,513	5,430	198	16,605	1,796	15	...	21	19	20	17	8,269	2,953	24,584	81	3
6	2,117	2,049	884	2,933	161	6,563	351	5	1	27	26	26	17	3,034	2,382	13,650	45	4
21	2,072	1,833	754	2,587	135	6,265	403	20	3	29	26	27	42	3,118	4,116	12,540	40	3
219	12,341	9,029	3,898	12,927	746	34,932	1,947	25	12	30	19	25	895	16,237	9,947	55,997	300	3
227	13,467	7,965	3,500	11,465	572	35,885	2,992	41	4	32	21	22	460	19,323	20,902	49,718	205	3
+8	+1,126	— 1,064	—398	— 1,462	—174	+953	+1,045	+16	— 8	— 8	+2	— 3	—426	+3,086	+ 10,955	— 6,279	— 95	...
11	4,815	3,320	1,613	4,933	249	13,948	890	66	10	25	19	22	67	8,433	6,603	23,123	726	3
59	4,745	3,100	1,678	4,778	161	14,223	857	44	62	28	21	24	127	9,277	8,585	16,980	524	3
12	2,943	3,593	1,518	5,111	176	12,239	907	9	..	23	15	23	22	4,403	15,238	7,901	97	4
135	3,766	3,221	1,691	4,912	163	12,805	902	32	2	27	21	25	107	5,319	9,530	16,399	128	3
34	5,869	2,470	938	3,408	319	14,878	988	4	..	18	21	17	56	8,046	5,765	81,713	56	3
75	7,474	3,271	831	4,102	377	17,199	757	6	1	15	19	18	52	8,856	7,185	17,786	56	4
57	13,627	9,393	4,069	13,462	744	41,065	2,785	79	10	24	18	21	145	20,882	27,606	1,12,787	879	3
269	15,985	9,592	4,200	13,792	701	44,227	2,516	82	65	25	19	23	286	23,452	25,250	51,165	708	3
+212	+2,358	+209	+131	+340	— 43	+3,162	— 269	+3	+55	+1	+1	+2	+141	+2,570	— 2,356	61,572	— 71	...
79	5,443	3,531	1,655	5,186	220	13,965	542	2	2	14	12	13	134	7,873	6,210	33,392	286	2
106	7,187	3,185	1,480	4,665	175	15,289	800	30	2	19	16	17	159	9,834	13,814	11,732	535	3
216	4,605	2,021	898	2,919	348	9,008	470	2	...	23	23	22	...	6,720	4,696	32,142	79	3
58	3,551	2,042	820	2,862	279	8,877	298	.	...	18	15	16	38	8,259	7,125	13,518	182	3
...	3,098	1,416	585	2,001	145	5,976	365	38	...	24	26	24	...	5,838	3,580	8,166	11	3
70	4,131	1,963	754	2,717	174	8,647	417	5	...	22	22	21	5	7,213	4,552	7,725	76	3
295	13,146	6,968	3,138	10,106	713	28,949	1,377	42	2	18	49	18	134	20,431	14,516	73,700	376	3
234	14,869	7,190	3,054	10,244	628	32,813	1,515	35	2	19	17	18	202	25,306	25,491	32,975	793	3
— 61	+1,723	+222	— 84	+138	— 85	+3,864	+138	— 7	...	+1	— 2	...	+68	+4,875	+10,975	— 40,725	+417	...

APPENDIX

GENERAL COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE ENTIRE CIVIL BUSINESS OF

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Number of cases on the file.				Disposed of without decree.					Decree		
													Without
Division.	District.	Pending from last year.	Instituted in 1871.	Received by transfer.	Total for disposal.	Transferred.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn with leave. Sec. 97, Act VIII of 1859.	Adjusted by mutual agreement under Section 98 of Act VIII of 1859.	Total.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed ex-parte.
RAWALPINDI.	Rawalpindi — 1870	83	8,599	...	8,682	1	917	286	848	2,052	118	2,299	681
	Rawalpindi — 1871	243	8,910	...	9,153	...	1,018	233	1,086	2,337	91	2,130	747
	Jhelam — 1870	81	3,348	...	3,429	...	327	128	340	795	231	491	127
	Jhelam — 1871	169	4,099	...	4,268	2	441	175	609	1,227	212	669	122
	Gujrát — 1870	95	5,275	...	5,370	...	611	448	59	1,118	175	1,654	96
	Gujrát — 1871	385	6,106	...	6,491	...	811	191	550	1,552	94	2,009	179
	Shâhpúr — 1870	80	4,636	...	4,716	...	476	98	...	574	1,024	1,240	287
	Shâhpúr — 1871	179	4,496	...	4,675	...	486	140	861	1,487	6	1,506	287
	Total — 1870	339	21,858	...	22,197	1	2,331	960	1,247	4,539	1,548	5,684	1,191
	Total — 1871	976	23,611	...	24,587	2	2,756	739	3,106	6,603	403	6,314	1,335
	Difference ...	+637	+1,753	...	+2,390	+1	+425	−221	+1,859	+2,064	−1,145	+630	+144
MULTAN.	Multán — 1870	77	3,382	...	3,459	...	346	358	37	741	392	931	140
	Multán — 1871	103	3,350	...	3,453	...	385	180	170	735	412	825	184
	Jhang — 1870	125	4,879	...	5,004	1	645	11	1,201	1,858	662	848	254
	Jhang — 1871	167	4,582	...	4,749	...	607	20	1,073	1,700	521	731	242
	Montgomery — 1870	30	3,474	...	3,504	1	287	9	763	1,060	1	982	238
	Montgomery — 1871	62	4,345	...	4,407	1	416	51	741	1,209	28	1,136	259
	Muzaffargarh — 1870	84	3,083	2	3,169	...	332	...	833	1,165	115	1,131	115
	Muzaffargarh — 1871	73	3,628	...	3,701	1	555	23	790	1,369	45	1,360	195
	Total — 1870	316	14,818	2	15,136	2	1,610	378	2,834	4,824	1,170	3,892	747
	Total — 1871	405	15,905	...	16,310	2	1,963	274	2,774	5,013	1,006	4,052	880
	Difference ...	+89	+1,087	−2	+1,174	...	+353	−104	−60	+189	−164	+160	+133
DERAJAT.	Bannú — 1870	133	3,906	...	4,039	...	276	89	255	620	398	342	86
	Bannú — 1871	245	4,575	...	4,820	1	440	119	234	794	483	312	107
	Derah Ismail Khán — 1870	97	5,215	...	5,312	...	669	3	750	1,422	403	1,064	260
	Derah Ismail Khán — 1871	172	6,047	3	6,222	...	696	81	916	1,693	381	1,550	411
	Derah Ghâzi Khán — 1870	74	4,693	...	4,767	5	415	90	15	525	1,284	1,364	116
	Derah Ghâzi Khán — 1871	150	5,436	...	5,586	...	582	123	113	818	1,361	1,630	211
	Total — 1870	304	13,814	...	14,118	5	1,360	182	1,020	2,567	2,085	2,770	462
	Total — 1871	567	16,058	3	16,628	1	1,718	323	1,263	3,305	2,225	3,492	729
	Difference ...	+263	+2,244	+3	+2,510	−4	+358	+141	+243	+738	+140	+722	+267
PESHAWAR.	Peshâwar — 1870	66	4,824	...	4,890	...	448	83	390	921	457	1,018	469
	Peshâwar — 1871	71	5,807	...	5,878	1	594	138	609	1,342	253	1,432	472
	Hazára — 1870	201	1,183	...	1,384	...	221	91	18	330	170	139	45
	Hazára — 1871	90	1,534	...	1,624	21	295	74	43	433	137	282	89
	Kohât — 1870	13	1,042	...	1,055	...	75	17	1	93	118	315	29
	Kohât — 1871	17	1,024	...	1,041	...	86	16	...	102	94	335	48
	Total — 1870	280	7,049	...	7,329	...	744	191	409	1,344	745	1,472	543
	Total — 1871	178	8,365	...	8,543	22	975	228	652	1,877	484	2,049	609
	Difference ...	−102	+1,316	...	+1,214	+22	+231	+37	+243	+533	−261	+577	+66
	Grand Total — 1870	7,700	2,02,985	8	2,10,693	44	26,866	3,413	18,307	48,630	15,879	52,116	12,119
	Grand Total — 1871	9,590	2,18,925	11	2,28,526	42	33,002	3,267	21,620	57,931	12,703	58,879	14,331
	Difference ...	+1,890	+15,940	+3	+17,833	−2	+6,136	−146	+3,313	+9,301	−3,176	+6,763	+2,212

No. 1—*concluded.*

THE DISTRICTS OF THE PANJAB DURING THE YEARS 1870 AND 1871—*concluded.*

15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
PASSED.																		
contest.		*With contest.*																
Dismissed ex-parte.	Total.	For Plaintiff, in whole or part.	For Defendant.	Total.	Referred to arbitration.	GRAND TOTAL DISPOSED OF.	Pending at end of year.	Over two months.	Over four months.	AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS EACH CASE LASTED		General average duration.	MISCELLANEOUS CASES.		Number of witnesses who appeared without summons.	Number of witnesses who appeared on summons, including parties summoned.	Number of applications for review.	Average number of days the parties or either or any of them had to attend Court.
										Contested.	Uncontested.		Plaints rejected or returned.	Other miscellaneous cases disposed of.				
1	3,099	2,038	990	3,028	260	8,439	243	3	..	26	21	21	64	3,608	4,090	12,655	5	3
14	2,982	2,232	1,161	3,393	276	8,988	165	10	2	19	15	23	249	4,253	6,763	14,985	3	3
7	856	953	550	1,503	106	3,260	169	17	...	22	19	21	325	1,309	1,953	10,449	15	4
6	1,009	1,114	626	1,740	141	4,117	151	6	...	22	19	21	148	1,615	5,055	10,862	15	3
31	1,956	1,112	539	1,651	250	4,975	395	10	...	16	13	19	3	2,146	268	13,696	1	3
8	2,290	1,366	698	2,064	202	6,108	383	31	...	16	15	15	105	2,759	3,210	6,663	1	2
...	2,551	776	570	1,346	66	4,537	179	4	...	20	15	17	216	1,704	1,890	1,391	11	3
1	1,800	758	396	1,154	62	4,503	172	3	...	26	16	20	181	1,785	2,498	302	8	3
39	8,462	4,879	2,649	7,528	682	21,211	986	34	..	19	20	20	608	8,767	8,201	38,191	32	3
29	8,081	5,470	2,881	8,351	681	23,716	871	50	2	21	20	20	683	10,412	17,526	32,812	27	4
−10	−381	+591	+232	+823	−1	+2,605	−115	+16	+2	+2	...	...	+75	+1,645	+9,325	−5,379	−5	+1
33	1,496	691	311	1,002	117	3,356	103	1	3	23	14	18	48	1,412	1,288	8,116	30	4
19	1,440	712	368	1,080	122	3,377	76	5	...	20	12	15	25	1,495	1,127	7,099	63	3
1	1,765	694	429	1,123	91	4,837	167	...	...	22	13	16	68	2,799	2,222	7,210	24	4
3	1,497	863	523	1,386	64	4,647	102	...	...	21	15	18	50	3,025	1,998	6,417	34	3
8	1,229	753	293	1,046	107	3,440	62	..	...	16	16	15	16	1,283	811	5,180	11	4
75	1,498	1,190	375	1,565	84	4,356	51	1	...	20	12	16	47	1,725	2,130	1,657	48	4
...	1,361	269	191	460	110	3,096	73	...	...	35	19	36	...	1,347	340	5,455	16	3
4	1,604	314	196	510	101	3,584	117	1	...	28	17	26	24	1,827	594	5,354	11	3
42	5,851	2,407	1,224	3,631	425	14,731	405	1	3	22	19	20	132	6,842	4,661	25,961	81	4
101	6,039	3,079	1,462	4,541	371	15,96	346	7	...	21	18	19	146	8,072	5,849	19,918	156	3
+59	+188	+672	+238	+910	−54	+1,233	−59	+6	−3	−1	−1	−1	+14	+1,230	+1,188	+6,043	+75	−1
16	842	1,418	717	2,135	197	3,794	245	5	1	13	16	14	13	1,866	199	10,510	25	5
9	911	1,892	877	2,769	134	4,608	212	4	...	16	11	15	17	2,695	940	9,993	37	4
2	1,729	1,313	525	1,838	151	5,140	172	21	1	17	12	16	36	1,96	235	9,415	18	3
10	2,352	1,405	490	1,895	141	6,081	141	9	..	20	23	22	11	2,322	1,327	9,376	29	3
...	2,764	784	375	1,159	169	4,617	150	84	...	21	15	16	14	1,358	...	13,358	9	3
5	3,207	884	365	1,249	209	5,483	103	10	4	25	16	20	6	2,057	6	16,153	13	3
18	5,335	3,515	1,617	5,132	517	13,551	567	110	2	16	14	15	63	5,185	434	33,283	52	4
24	6,470	4,181	1,732	5,913	484	16,172	456	23	4	19	18	18	34	7,074	2,273	35,522	79	3
+6	+1,135	+666	+115	+781	−33	+2,621	−111	−87	+2	+3	+4	+3	−29	+1,889	+1,839	+2,239	+27	−1
62	2,006	1,241	558	1,799	93	4,819	71	1	...	15	11	13	54	2,831	1,325	9,203	155	2
30	2,187	1,445	701	2,146	81	5,756	122	8	...	16	16	16	126	4,185	3,248	10,245	181	3
...	354	433	150	583	27	1,294	90	13	...	58	43	69	2	617	...	3,272	...	7
3	511	404	129	533	35	1,512	112	4	...	25	34	30	6	961	74	2,089	1	3
7	469	232	210	442	34	1,038	17	5	1	10	14	13	6	388	176	1,689	15	1
...	477	328	114	442	10	1,031	10	4	1	16	14	16	...	890	119	1,302	4	2
69	2,829	1,906	918	2,824	154	7,151	178	19	1	24	21	22	62	3,836	1,501	14,[illegible]	170	3
33	3,175	2,177	944	3,121	126	8,299	244	16	1	18	19	18	132	6,036	3,441	14,236	186	3
−36	+346	+271	+26	+297	−28	+1,148	+66	−3	...	−6	−2	−4	+70	+2,200	+1,940	+72	+16	...
779	80,893	45,860	20,822	66,682	4,888	2,01,093	9,600	363	39	22	17	19	2,621	1,09,628	88,435	3,65,135	2,189	3
1,053	86,966	47,755	21,363	69,118	4,375	2,18,390	10,136	298	85	21	17	19	2,966	1,29,151	1,33,206	3,07,249	2,391	3
+274	+6,073	+1,895	+541	+2,436	−513	+17,297	+536	−45	+46	−1	...	...	+345	+19,523	+44,771	−57,886	+202	...

APPENDIX No. II.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ALL CASES PENDING, INSTITUTED, DECIDED, AND REMAINING FOR TRIAL, IN THE DISTRICT SMALL CAUSE COURTS OF THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEARS 1870 AND 1871.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Number of cases on file.			Disposed of without decree.				Decree passed.													Average duration of each case.					Miscellaneous cases disposed of.	
								Without contest.					With contest.														
COURT.	Pending from last year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn with leave, Section 97, Act VIII of 1859.	Adjusted by mutual agreement, Section 98, Act VIII of 1859.	Total.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed exparte.	Dismissed exparte.	Total.	Judgment for Plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for Defendant.	Total.	Referred to Arbitration.	Grand Total disposed of.	Pending at end of year.	Pending over two months.	Date of oldest case pending.	Contested.	Uncontested.	General average duration.	Number of witnesses who appeared without summons.	Number of witnesses who appeared on summons, including parties summoned.	Plaints rejected or returned.	Other miscellaneous cases.
Dehli ... 1870,	56	4,943	4,999	227	249	456	932	548	1,536	261	5	2,350	1,237	223	1,460	74	4,816	183	...	4th Novr.	5	3	4	1,322	8,837	23	2,256
1871,	183	5,377	5,560	642	64	510	1,216	917	1,514	311	...	2,742	1,164	358	1,522	23	5,503	57	...	27th Novr.	6	4	5	2,507	7,847	..	3,046
Lndiánah ... 1870,	12	3,670	3,682	234	4	20	258	646	448	147	...	2,241	672	359	1,031	55	3.585	97	.	6th Decr.	16	12	13	995	6,135	70	1,787
1871,	97	2,835	2,932	209	7	415	631	14	1,170	210	8	1,402	536	306	842	28	2,903	29	...	21st Decr.	9	8	8	1,166	6,057	36	1,697
Sirsá ... 1870,	2	1,527	1,529	86	21	236	343	17	462	219	4	702	390	87	477	5	1,527	2	...	9th Decr.	13	11	11	88	1,743	39	1.238
1871,	2	1,740	1,742	116	18	223	357	80	351	221	14	616	582	171	753	14	1,740	2	...	5th Decr.	8	7	8	481	1,827	37	1,344
Jálandhar ... 1870,	64	2,576	2,640	558	2	168	728	76	745	90	38	949	577	326	903	1	2,581	59	..	18th Novr.	16	9	12	280	7,248	22	1,723
1871,	59	5,322	5,381	1,600	...	481	2,081	66	1,302	447	39	1,854	682	474	1,156	3	5,094	287	...	13th Decr	19	15	16	2,651	5,736	28	2,397
Hoshiárpúr ... 1870,	68	3.988	4,056	336	2	534	872	112	1,343	261	...	1,716	947	336	1,283	54	3.925	131	...	29th Novr.	13	10	14	540	10,475	45	2,075
1871,	131	5,450	5,581	624	1	597	1,222	43	2,217	311	12	2,583	1,115	445	1,560	25	5,390	191	...	18th Novr.	13	10	14	2,008	11,987	61	2,752
Amritsar ... 1870,	114	5,910	6,024	1,013	23	533	1,569	934	1 274	267	..	2,475	1,172	708	1,880	4	5,928	96	...	13th Decr.	14	10	12	319	2,057	52	2,909
1871,	96	5,494	5,590	1,181	14	669	1,864	1,009	715	329	29	2,082	905	629	1,534	1	5,481	109	...	6th Decr.	12	9	10	1,182	7,885	71	2,703
Lahore ... 1870,	73	5,787	5,860	698	12	874	1,584	412	1,033	700	52	2,197	1,237	573	1,810	7	5,598	262	...	6th Decr.	7	7	8	1,401	9,518	102	2,845
1871,	262	6,736	6,998	926	15	717	1,658	474	1,646	981	40	3,141	1,258	673	1,931	4	6,734	264	...	4th Decr.	8	8	8	1,710	5,789	97	2,306
Peshawar ... 1870,	17	1,851	1,868	81	34	297	412	77	471	120	42	710	531	200	731	10	1.863	5	...	28th Novr.	8	5	7	494	3,547	23	1.134
1871,	5	2,422	2,427	162	34	319	515	69	672	151	13	905	661	313	974	22	2,416	11	...	6th Novr.	12	9	11	1,173	5,235	27	1,656
Total ... 1870,	406	30,252	30,658	3,233	347	3,118	6,698	2,822	8,312	2,065	141	13,340	6,763	2.812	9,575	210	29,823	835	..	...	11	9	10	5 439	50,560	376	15.967
1871,	835	35,376	36,211	5,460	153	3,931	9,544	2,622	8,587	2,961	155	15,325	6,903	3,369	10,272	120	35,261	930	...	...	10	7	10	12.878	52,363	357	17,901

APPENDIX No. III.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF ALL CASES PENDING, INSTITUTED, DECIDED, AND REMAINING FOR TRIAL, IN THE CANTONMENT SMALL CAUSE COURTS OF THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEARS 1870 AND 1871.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Number of cases on file.			Disposed of without decree.				Decree passed.												Average duration of each case.					Miscellaneous cases disposed of.	
								Without contest.					*With contest.*													
COURT.	Pending from last year.	Instituted during the year.	Total.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn with leave, Section 97, Act VIII of 1859.	Adjusted by mutual agreement Section 98, Act VIII of 1859.	Total.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed exparte.	Dismissed exparte.	Total.	Judgment for Plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for Defendant.	Total.	Referred to arbitration.	Grand Total disposed of.	Pending at end of year.	Pending over two months.	Contested.	Uncontested.	General average duration.	Number of witnesses who appeared without summons.	Number of witnesses who appeared on summons including parties summoned.	Plaints rejected or returned.	Other miscellaneous cases.
Ambálah 1870,	2	980	982	215	...	84	299	22	137	122	...	281	216	143	359	38	977	5	...	9	10	9	111	1,020	7	542
1871,	5	754	759	202	1	43	246	35	117	99	...	251	153	97	250	8	755	4	...	10	9	9	71	508	...	418
Jálandhar 1870,	5	427	432	31	...	53	84	5	152	42	2	201	88	35	123	23	431	1	...	5	3	4	65	40	3	233
1871,	1	490	491	40	...	61	101	15	131	68	1	215	108	43	151	20	487	4	...	6	6	6	124	872	2	226
Siálkót 1870,	4	748	752	71	19	60	150	1	338	91	...	430	135	24	159	2	741	11	...	6	10	7	82	149	1	244
1871,	11	631	642	76	1	106	183	8	250	77	...	335	76	13	89	21	628	14	...	9	8	8	59	598	...	343
Mián Mír 1870,	...	1,167	1,167	92	...	...	92	127	425	217	...	769	238	30	268	37	1,166	1	...	4	4	3	291	1,031	4	663
1871,	1	1,004	1,005	98	...	4	102	138	308	151	3	600	202	94	296	7	1,005	...	...	7	5	5	170	180	8	569
Firozpûr 1870,	...	948	948	34	44	30	108	45	480	43	...	568	142	79	221	50	947	1	...	6	4	4	161	1,124	..	447
1871,	1	912	913	37	9	46	92	35	482	87	10	614	113	67	180	23	909	4	...	9	3	4	68	875	...	398
Ráwalpindi 1870,	...	1,395	1,395	95	...	80	175	...	670	182	...	852	81	146	227	106	1,360	35	...	12	9	11	...	1,065	5	515
1871,	35	1,297	1,332	148	...	81	229	.	527	228	...	755	213	111	324	20	1,328	4	...	16	10	14	65	1,409	...	713
Multán 1870,	21	539	560	41	2	..	43	66	203	56	13	338	105	55	160	16	557	3	...	5	5	5	33	898	7	340
1871,	3	373	376	24	...	16	40	23	147	40	...	210	72	32	104	21	375	1	...	6	9	7	69	787	...	207
Pesháwar 1870,	19	709	728	50	...	66	116	...	223	152	4	379	128	81	209	7	711	17	...	6	6	6	..	838	6	396
1871,	17	546	563	24	...	53	77	...	229	59	2	290	128	56	184	7	558	5	...	3	3	3	83	532	8	470
Total ... 1870,	51	6,913	6,964	629	65	373	1,067	266	2,628	905	19	3,818	1,133	593	1,726	279	6,890	74	...	8	6	7	743	6,165	33	3,380
1871,	74	6,007	6,081	649	11	410	1,070	254	2,191	809	16	3,270	1,065	513	1,578	127	6,045	36	...	9	7	8	699	5,261	18	3,344

No. IV

CLASSIFICATION STATEMENT 1871.

APPENDIX

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL CIVIL

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	MONEY DUE.									SUITS FOR DAMAGES.				
		ON WRITTEN PROMISE FOR SUM CERTAIN.		On unwritten promise for sum certain.	On account stated.	For money paid or received.	For goods sold and delivered.	For breaches of contract not included in the above.	Suits for rent, other than of land.	Recovery of personal property, or value thereof.	For injuries to the person.	For injuries to property.	For defamation	For other injuries not included in above.	Suits to compel specific performance of contracts.
		Registered.	Unregistered.												
DEHLI.	Dehli ...	290	2,210	1,139	2,078	376	955	246	185	255	...	102	3	48	2
	Gurgáon ...	114	117	631	567	...	...	...	20	3	...	3	..	...	...
	Karnál ...	309	540	585	1,380	3	1	5	36	169	18	4	3	40	36
	Total ...	713	2,867	2,355	4,025	379	956	251	241	427	18	109	6	88	38
HISSAR.	Hissár ...	135	237	519	784	3	4	2	36	135	...	7	15	9	3
	Rohtak ...	183	478	253	656	...	...	2	21	133	1	6	2	6	5
	Sirsa ...	29	70	284	368	10	...	...	9	110	...	2	4	6	8
	Total ...	347	785	1,056	1,808	13	4	4	66	378	1	15	21	21	16
AMBALAH.	Ambálah ...	476	1,463	1,439	2,184	20	80	25	147	767	20	65	4	105	58
	Ludiánah ...	258	2,579	1,368	1,025	9	596	10	74	976	4	60	12	11	1
	Simla ...	63	396	379	752	21	588	308	140	134	...	34	6	24	1
	Total ...	797	4,438	3,186	3,961	50	1,264	343	361	1,877	24	159	22	140	60
JALANDHAR.	Jálandhar ...	801	5,777	2,049	648	705	507	21	127	565	...	89	20	26	4
	Hoshiárpúr ...	1,127	8,052	3,069	684	112	261	118	129	765	...	133	26	115	36
	Kángra ...	237	1,639	1,418	649	3	44	9	46	537	9	136	64	61	14
	Total ...	2,165	15,468	6,536	1,981	820	812	148	302	1,867	9	358	110	202	54
AMRITSAR.	Amritsar ..	758	5,268	304	1,108	2 957	316	3	117	717	5	35	53	39	17
	Gurdáspúr ...	656	4,521	3,387	1,598	60	11	...	32	337	1	3	8	48	114
	Siálkót ...	805	7,214	3,268	3,944	...	3	2	78	238	...	24	64	31	1
	Total ...	2,219	17,003	6,959	6,650	3,017	330	5	227	1,292	6	62	125	118	132
LAHORE.	Lahore ...	696	4,641	2,647	1,980	120	2,084	616	185	296	13	39	7	4	21
	Firozpúr ...	337	692	2,321	2,315	596	601	...	73	427	..	19	38	5	..
	Gujránwála ...	479	3,785	1,674	1,654	39	81	21	36	164	11	22	62	15	29
	Total ...	1,512	9,121	6,642	5,949	755	2,766	667	294	887	24	80	107	24	50
RAWULPINDI	Ráwulpindi ...	172	1,543	1,919	1,784	18	663	120	112	496	2	31	19	15	166
	Jhelam ...	118	777	761	618	1	3	3	15	348	9	20	26	1	2
	Gujrát ...	645	2,153	978	1,145	...	...	2	21	170	...	13	64	1	1
	Sháhpúr ...	44	1,603	594	1,310	1	...	...	19	394	...	...	...	13	..
	Total ...	979	6,076	4,255	4,857	20	666	125	197	1,408	11	64	109	30	169
MULTAN	Multán ..	98	640	907	1,049	3	...	...	13	16		2	5	3	...
	Jhang ...	47	671	591	2,411	3	1	...	11	284	3	6	4	1	...
	Montgomery ...	74	462	609	2 632	2	23	..	11	330	..	19	15	4	...
	Muzaffargarh ...	97	1,638	498	581	...	23	1	30	136	..	33	14	2	...
	Total ...	316	3,411	2,605	6,673	8	47	1	65	910	3	60	38	10	...
BANNU.	Bannú ..	49	721	1,123	462	...	61	...	28	331	10	87	72	4	...
	Derah Ismail Khán	71	2 494	770	811	43	124	7	104	455	1	47	18	11	...
	Derah Ghází Khán	60	1,555	1,150	1,291	..	6	1	66	266	.	93	16	3	44
	Total ...	183	4,770	3,043	2 564	43	191	8	198	1,052	11	227	105	18	44
PESHAWAR	Pesháwar ...	172	1,190	974	933	110	412	182	119	471	25	25	1	41	3
	Hazárá ...	5	142	710	512	...	1	..	1	29	..	..	8	...	...
	Kohát ..	4	107	221	135	7	322	...	12	...	.	..	1	6	...
	Total ...	181	1,739	1,911	1,580	117	735	182	132	50	25	25	10	47	3
	GRAND TOTAL ..	9,412	65,678	38,548	40,048	5,222	7,771	1734	2083	10,598	132	1,159	654	698	566

No. IV.

SUITS DISPOSED OF IN THE DISTRICTS OF THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEAR 1871.

17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
					SUITS RELATING TO MARRIAGE, DOWER AND DIVORCE.							CLAIM TO INHERITANCE.							
												UNDER MUHAMMADAN LAW.		UNDER HINDU LAW.		UNDER ANY OTHER LAW.			
Suits to set aside contracts and obligations on account of fraud, mistake, or accident.	Suits to compel or prevent particular acts by way of mandamus or injunction.	Suits to settle partnership and other accounts.	Suits connected with religion and caste.	Suits relating to administration of trusts and religious endowments.	Suits connected with betrothal.	Suits for custody of wives.	Other suits.	Suits to establish or dispute adoption	Suits regarding custody and guardianship of infants and lunatics.	Other suits to declare or establish personal rights.	Suits to establish or contest wills.	Land only.	Other property.	Land only.	Other property.	Land only.	Other property.	Suits to establish or contest the acts of Hindú widows.	Suits relating to the revenue.
...	...	26	...	..	...	26	12	1	...	15	...	3	7	2	4	...	...	...	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	...	...	1
1	...	7	...	2	29	1	10	4	1	6	...	2	4	22	16	24	7	...	15
1	...	38	...	2	29	28	22	5	2	21	...	5	11	24	20	58	7	...	22
...	3	8	...	...	29	5	2	...	...	19	...	2	...	4	1	...	...	...	35
...	...	5	...	...	10	14	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3	...	...	..	...	29
3	...	7	...	...	10	3	...	...	...	41	...	3	...	1	...	1	1	...	105
3	3	20	...	...	49	22	2	...	1	60	...	6	1	8	1	1	1	...	169
2	1	42	...	5	28	52	13	5	...	7	1	10	3	16	9	58	45	...	455
9	...	17	1	9	94	70	18	5	1	16	...	78	11	105	14	...	...	...	118
1	...	3	...	...	...	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	1	62	1	14	122	128	34	10	1	23	1	88	14	121	23	58	45	...	573
8	...	11	...	2	93	65	14	4	...	3	...	4	1	3	1	1	...	...	152
...	5	17	...	10	65	81	4	...	35	5	25	3	3	7	1	62	12	...	635
2	3	24	6	7	195	37	33	5	...	19	...	1	...	125	15	161	25	2	50
10	8	52	6	19	353	183	51	9	35	27	25	8	4	135	17	224	37	2	837
...	...	34	15	7	106	96	18	2	1	10	...	..	4	..	17	100	3	11	470
1	...	11	...	1	151	65	...	...	...	...	...	48	...	258	124	...	...	...	314
20	2	15	...	...	97	43	28	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	306
21	2	60	15	8	354	204	46	3	1	10	1	48	5	258	141	100	3	11	1,090
22	...	39	...	...	86	91	35	4	...	11	2	14	9	8	21	81	13	1	199
...	...	71	...	...	123	66	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	125	42	162	25	...	132
3	1	36	1	1	35	49	11	..	6	1	...	3	1	3	4	9	4	..	96
25	1	146	1	1	244	206	46	6	6	12	2	18	11	136	67	252	42	1	427
1	1	9	...	3	113	166	22	...	1	1	...	4	1	1	...	...	...	...	266
3	...	8	...	...	59	93	42	...	2	...	...	5	2	2	...	325	93	...	89
...	...	1	...	...	53	40	1	...	1	..	...	8	1	...	2	292	62	...	45
4	...	3	...	...	37	30	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
8	1	21	...	3	262	329	74	...	4	1	.	17	4	3	2	617	155	...	400
...	...	21	...	...	2	22	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	2	...	...	...	276
...	...	3	...	...	24	32	5	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	3	...	...	...	96
2	...	4	...	...	4	16	5	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	3	...	...	...	32
1	...	13	...	...	16	29	3	...	1	...	1	4	3	1	5	4	.	...	25
3	...	41	...	...	46	99	13	...	1	...	1	5	4	4	13	4	..	...	429
...	...	...	...	1	76	136	18	...	...	...	...	14	30	..	..	36	1	...	51
...	...	14	...	9	15	97	15	...	2	1	...	57	31	2	8	.	7	...	17
...	...	22	...	...	49	55	19	...	...	...	...	16	3	5	1	49	3	...	69
...	...	36	...	10	140	288	52	...	2	1	...	87	64	7	9	85	11	...	137
2	2	24	...	1	15	114	51	2	1	31	2	3	31	...	6	1	2	...	98
...	1	...	...	15	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
...	...	1	...	...	14	22	8	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	5	...	..
2	3	25	...	16	90	136	59	2	1	31	2	3	31	..	6	1	7	...	98
85	19	496	23	73	1,689	1,623	399	35	51	186	32	285	149	696	299	1,400	308	11	4,182

APPENDIX

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL CIVIL SUITS

DIVISION.	DISTRICT.	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
		SUITS RELATING TO MORTGAGE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY.		CLAIMS IN RIGHT OF PREEMPTION.			SUITS FOR PARTITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY.				RENT SUITS, NOT BEING PANJAB TENANCY			
		Land only.	Other property.	Land only.	Other property.	Suits regarding the relative right of superior and inferior holders of land (other than rent suits.)	Land only.	Other property.	Suits regarding boundaries.	Suits for, or relating to, real property, not included in the foregoing.	Suits to recover arrears of rent from tenants without right of occupancy.	Suits to recover arrears of rent from tenants with right of occupancy.	Suits regarding illegal exaction, duress, distraint, or demand.	Suits regarding accounts, &c., by or against agent, &c.
DEHLI.	Dehli ...	22	10	7	9	...	11	10	...	97	323	50	...	...
	Gurgáon ...	4	...	...	1	5	548	24	...	113	145	7	...	...
	Karnál ...	12	16	11	5	30	31	12	4	94	145	19	4	...
	Total ...	38	26	18	15	35	590	46	4	304	613	76	4	...
HISSAR.	Hissár ...	18	24	16	3	25	...	4	...	92	165	42	...	...
	Rohtak ...	24	5	7	2	206	6	5	...	152	103	16	1	...
	Sirsa ...	14	...	4	1	10	...	...	...	78	78	3	2	1
	Total ...	56	29	27	6	241	6	9	...	322	346	61	3	1
AMBALAH	Ambálah ...	108	43	49	18	161	96	17	19	440	200	170	...	...
	Ludiánah ...	97	30	41	8	11	72	23	80	295	34	11	1	...
	Simla ...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	206	77	90	21	172	168	40	99	765	234	181	1	...
JALANDHAR	Jálandhar ...	98	37	62	10	6	96	21	38	661	112	64	...	...
	Hoshiárpúr ...	68	117	86	76	4	6	1	...	226	263	134	2	...
	Kángra ...	105	44	35	...	1	33	2	...	279	33	84	2	...
	Total ...	271	198	183	88	11	135	24	38	1,166	408	282	4	...
AMRITSAR.	Amritsar ...	93	112	36	6	11	7	8	5	397	372	50	...	...
	Gurdáspur ...	63	6	36	3	2	45	...	...	...	63	18	...	...
	Siálkot ...	30	23	29	...	2	93	39	...	445	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	186	141	101	9	15	145	47	5	842	435	68	...	...
LAHORE	Lahore ...	58	25	34	23	31	44	18	2	381	106	85	7	...
	Firozpúr ...	52	42	11	...	...	18	24	...	113	172	25	...	...
	Gujránwála ...	89	41	12	5	53	15	11	1	34	18	23	...	3
	Total ...	199	108	57	28	84	77	53	3	528	296	133	7	3
RAWALPINDI	Ráwalpindi ...	18	2	38	8	2	2	8	...	679	201	124	1	...
	Jhelam ...	20	4	13	7	7	6	6	13	133	161	99	...	...
	Gujrát ...	17	2	20	...	24	4	...	...	158	58	7	...	...
	Sháhpúr ...	16	13	15	1	...	...	2	...	392	...	...	...	...
	Total ...	71	21	86	16	33	12	16	13	1,362	420	230	1	...
MULTAN.	Multán ...	22	31	10	...	25	7	6	...	33	...	...	...	...
	Jhang ...	46	10	6	7	4	...	...	...	239	137	...	...	...
	Montgomery ...	...	13	2	...	4	...	...	...	31	2	3	2	...
	Muzaffargarh ...	17	2	11	3	6	8	1	1	98	165	80	4	...
	Total ...	85	56	29	10	39	15	7	1	401	304	83	6	...
DERAJAT.	Bannú ...	455	25	145	10	329	101	10	...	139	68	...	...	...
	Derha I. Khán ...	273	47	33	1	362	11	15	...	85	5	14	...	...
	Derha G. Kháu ...	79	...	25	...	67	24	...	...	125	321	...	...	...
	Total ...	807	72	203	11	758	136	25	...	349	394	14	...	...
PESHAWAR	Pesháwar ...	5	33	...	11	...	15	11	...	150	72	67	29	7
	Hazárá ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Kohát ...	22	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	107	32	...	1	...
	Total ...	27	33	...	13	2	15	11	...	257	104	67	30	7
	GRAND TOTAL ...	1,946	761	794	217	1,390	1,299	278	163	6,296	3,554	1,195	56	11

No. IV.

DISPOSED OF IN THE DISTRICTS OF THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEAR 1871.—*(concluded.)*

50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
SUITS UNDER ACT.		SUITS UNDER THE PANJAB TENANCY ACT.												
Suits to resume or assess land held exempt from revenue or rent.	Suits not included in Columns 46 to 50, not being suits under the Panjáb Tenancy Act.	Suits under Section 5 by tenants for right of occupancy.	Suits to establish right of occupancy under Sec. 8, on other grounds than those mentioned in the previous Sections of the Act.	Suits under Section 6 by landlords for rebuttal of presumptive right of occupancy.	Suits under Secs. 10 and 11 for enhancement of rent.	Suits under Section 14 for abatement of rent.	Suits for arrears of rent, where remission is allowed under Section 15.	Suits under Section 18 to set aside award of division and appraisement of produce taken for rent.	Suits under Section 19 by landlords for ejectment of tenants with right of occupancy, (Sec. 19, clause 1).	Suits under Section 19 by landlords for ejectment of tenants with right of occupancy. (Sec. 19, clause 2).	Suits under Section 20 by landlords for ejectment of tenants without right of occupancy.	Suits under Section 25 by tenants to contest notice of ejectment.	Suits under Section 26 by tenants on account of illegal ejectment.	TOTAL.
4	166	12	...	5	...	...	...	...	2	...	6	...	3	8,728
...	...	104	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 443
6	46	1	2	1	..	...		...	2	...	26	2	...	3.749
10	212	117	2	6	...	..	...	...	4	...	32	2	3	14,920
...	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	2	3	2,447
...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	11	...	...	2,385
...	7	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	1,373
...	49	41	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	24	2	92	6,205
3	12	11	5	1	...	2	...	...	4	1	11	6	9	8,991
...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	33	1	7	8,298
...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,894
3	12	20	5	1	...	2	..	1	4	1	44	7	16	20,183
...	...	91	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	13,015
...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	1	1	7	...	12	16,603
3	31	10	...	...	6	...	...	...	9	3	1	...	8	6,265
3	31	101	2	...	7	...	...	...	10	4	23	...	20	35,883
...	...	184	2	256	59	..	...	...	2	...	30	...	1	14,222
...	...	4	...	436	370	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,803
...	...	215	...	47	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,199
...	...	403	2	739	519	8	...	...	2	...	30	...	1	44,224
6	218	35	...	20	69	1	1	18	3	...	6	17	59	15,285
11	70	70	12	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	58	2	1	8,876
2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,646
19	291	105	12	41	69	1	1	18	3	...	64	19	60	32,807
1	1	68	6	5	22	1	8	..	37	10	54	2	11	8.988
...	32	63	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	53	28	27	10	4.117
...	...	76	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	6	3	6,108
...	...	3	...	1	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,504
1	33	210	18	30	22	1	8	...	37	65	90	35	24	23,717
...	32	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,377
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4,647
...	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	4,855
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...	8	2	...	...	3.583
...	79	3	...	...	...	...	18	6	...	8	2	...	...	15,962
...	...	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	4,607
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.081
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	5,483
...	...	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	16,171
6	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,755
...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1,491
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,031
6	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	8,277
42	712	1,008	88	817	617	12	27	25	67	79	309	70	216	2,18,319

IMPERIAL RETURN.

No.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL
DURING THE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
COURTS.	MONEY DUE.									SUITS FOR DAMAGES.				
	ON WRITTEN PROMISE FOR SUM CERTAIN.													
	Registered.	Unregistered.	On unwritten promise for sum certain.	On account stated.	For money paid or received.	For goods sold and delivered.	For breaches of contract not included in the above.	Suits for rent, other than of land.	Recovery of personal property, or value thereof.	For injuries to the person.	For injuries to property.	For defamation.	For other injuries not included in above.	Suits to compel specific performance of contracts.
Small Cause Courts, ...	1,581	17,299	6,205	4,419	3,107	5,589	1,476	810	1,345	5	218	...	47	4
Unpaid Local Tribunals.—*Honorary Civil Judges*, ...	537	3,802	2,298	2,334	565	227	12	53	657	12	41	53	53	124
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals.—*Tahsildars and Naib Tahsildars*, ...	3,215	32,973	23,244	23,547	1,169	1,299	81	782	6,306	75	558	332	357	246
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.—*Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners*, ...	3,280	11,447	6,746	9,536	375	653	162	437	2,248	40	339	255	239	191
Chief Courts of Districts.—*Deputy Commissioners*, ...	99	157	55	212	6	3	3	1	42	...	3	14	2	1
Superior Court of general jurisdiction.—*Chief Court*, ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL, ...	9,412	65,679	38,548	40,048	5,222	7,771	1,734	2,083	10,598	132	1,159	654	698	567

CIVIL SUITS DISPOSED OF BY THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PANJAB, YEAR 1871.

16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
					SUITS RELATING TO MARRIAGE, DOWER AND DIVORCE.							CLAIM TO INHERITANCE.							
												UNDER MAHOMEDAN LAW.		UNDER HINDU LAW.		UNDER ANY OTHER LAW.			
Suits to set aside contracts and obligations on account of fraud, mistake, or accident.	Suits to compel or prevent particular acts by way of mandamus or injunction.	Suits to settle partnership and other accounts.	Suits connected with religion and caste.	Suits relating to administration of trusts and religious endowments.	Suits connected with betrothal.	Suits for custody of wives.	Other suits.	Suits to establish or dispute adoption.	Suits regarding custody and guardianship of infants and lunatics.	Other suits to declare or establish personal rights.	Suits to establish or contest will.	Land only.	Other property.	Land only.	Other property.	Land only.	Other property.	Suits to establish or contest the acts of Hindu widows.	Suits relating to the revenue.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	2	40	1	17	96	40	30	1	6	8	1	37	23	5	11	20	20	3	98
25	10	246	6	21	657	594	205	8	5	123	2	96	87	586	206	859	202	...	3,679
53	6	201	16	35	918	973	159	26	42	53	28	150	39	105	78	518	85	11	403
3	1	9	...	...	18	16	5	...	1	2	1	2	...	...	4	3	1	...	2
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
85	19	496	23	74	1,689	1,623	399	35	54	186	32	285	149	696	299	1,400	308	14	4,182

No.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF ORIGINAL DURING THE

COURTS.	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
	Suits relating to mortgage of immoveable property.		Claims in right of pre-emption.			Suits for partition of immoveable property.				Rent suits, not being Panjab tenancy			
	Land only.	Other property.	Land only.	Other property.	Suits regarding the relative right of superior and inferior holders of land (other than rent suits).	Land only.	Other property.	Suits regarding boundaries.	Suits for, or relating to, real property, not included in the foregoing.	Suits to recover arrears of rent from tenants without right of occupancy.	Suits to recover arrears of rent from tenants with right of occupancy.	Suits regarding illegal exaction, duress, distraint, or demand.	Suits regarding accounts, &c., by or against agents, &c.
Small Cause Courts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Unpaid Local Tribunals.—*Honorary Civil Judges*	51	27	12	4	19	12	25	2	252	50	23	1	...
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals.—*Tahsildárs and Naib Tahsildárs*	1,178	373	408	71	968	899	133	101	4,501	3,092	979	40	8
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts.—*Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners*	706	358	368	142	402	376	118	60	1,491	410	193	15	2
Chief Courts of Districts.—*Deputy Commissioners*	11	3	6	...	1	12	2	...	52	2	...	...	1
Superior Court of general jurisdiction.—*Chief Court*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL ...	1,946	761	794	217	1,390	1,299	278	163	6,296	3,554	1,195	56	11

6.

CIVIL SUITS DISPOSED OF BY THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PANJAB, YEAR 1871.—*concluded.*

49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
SUITS UNDER ACT.		SUITS UNDER THE PANJAB TENANCY ACT.												
Suits to resume or assess land held exempt from revenue or rent.	Suits not included in Columns 45 to 49, not being suits under the Panjab Tenancy Act.	Suits under Section 5 by tenants for right of occupancy.	Suits to establish right of occupancy under Section 8, on other grounds than those mentioned in the previous Secs. of the Act.	Suits under Section 6, by landlords for rebuttal of presumptive right of occupancy.	Suits under Sections 10 and 11 for enhancement of rent.	Suits under Section 14 for abatement of rent.	Suits for arrears of rent, where remission is allowed under Section 15.	Suits under Section 18 to set aside award of division and appraisement of produce taken for rent.	Suits under Sec. 19 by landlords for ejectment of tenants with right of occupancy, (Sec. 19, clause 1.)	Suits under Section 19 by landlords for ejectment of tenants with right of occupancy, (Sec. 19, clause 2.)	Suits under Section 20 by landlords for ejectment of tenants without right of occupancy.	Suits under Section 25 by tenants to contest notice of ejectment.	Suits under Section 26 by tenants on account of illega. ejectment.	REMARKS.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
12	4	7	3	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	1	
20	644	383	34	39	26	4	26	7	53	76	205	58	113	
10	64	597	1	738	574	8	1	18	14	3	86	12	102	
...	...	21	...	26	15	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
42	712	1,008	38	817	617	12	27	25	67	79	309	70	216	

No. 7.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE VALUE OF SUITS DISPOSED OF IN THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEAR 1871.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VALUE OF SUITS.	Number of Suits disposed of in different Courts.						Total value of Suits.	Remarks.
	Small Cause Courts.	Unpaid Local tribunals. (*Honorary Civil Judges.*)	Paid Sub-divisional tribunals. (*Tahsildars and Naib-Tahsildars.*)	District Courts, other than Chief Courts of Districts. (*Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners.*)	Chief Courts of Districts. (*Deputy Commissioners.*)	Chief Court of Province.		
	Land. / Other.	Land. / Other.	Land. / Other.	Land. / Other.	Land. / Other.		Land. / Other.	
Not exceeding Rs. 5	... / 7,000	121 / 2,176	9,090 / 15,856	1,302 / 3,814	27 / 27	...	14,062 / 1,08,293	
„ „ „ 20	... / 17,084	149 / 4,622	5,262 / 42,750	2,126 / 11,208	41 / 81	...	96,704 / 8,26,404	
„ „ „ 100	... / 14,573	146 / 3,985	4,792 / 37,003	2,783 / 17,429	28 / 190	...	3,59,899 / 33,37,829	
„ „ „ 500	... / 2,649	34 / 354	1,006 / 5,354	1,230 / 6,783	26 / 187	...	4,06,415 / 27,61,001	
„ „ „ 1,000	... / ...	2 / 5	... / ...	146 / 966	14 / 98	1	1,07,380 / 6,79,728	
„ „ „ 5,000	... / ...	... / 3	... / ...	59 / 518	11 / 58	...	1,36,578 / 10,89,184	
„ „ „ 10,000	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	... / 37	3 / 15	...	23,706 / 3,44,516	
„ „ „ 1,00,000	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	... / 2	2 / 17	1	29,484 / 3,87,754	
Exceeding Rs. 1,00,000	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	... / ...	1	... / 1,70,000	
Total ...	... / 41,306	452 / 11,145	14,150 / 1,00,963	7,646 / 40,757	152 / 673	3	11,74,228 / 97,04,709	

IMPERIAL RETURN.

NO. 8.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE GENERAL RESULT OF THE TRIAL OF CIVIL SUITS IN THE COURTS OF ORIGINAL JURISDICTION IN THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEAR 1871.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
CLASS OF COURTS.	NUMBER OF CASES ON THE FILE.				DISPOSED OF WITHOUT DECREE.				DECREE PASSED.												AVERAGE DURATION OF SUITS.	
									Without contest.				*With contest.*									
	Suits remaining from last year.	Filed in.	Received by transfer.	Total for disposal.	Transferred.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn with leave.	Adjusted by mutual agreement.	Compromised.	Decreed on confession.	Decreed ex-parte.	Dismissed ex-parte.	Judgment for plaintiff in whole or part.	Judgment for defendant.	Referred to arbitration.	Total disposed of.	Pending.	Over two months.	Over four months.	Plaints rejected or returned.	Contested.	Uncontested.
Small Cause Courts ...	909	41,382	1	42,292	1	6,110	163	4,341	2,620	12,024	3,770	181	7,966	3,883	247	41,306	986	...	...	304	10	13
Unpaid Local Tribunals ... (*Honorary Civil Judges.*)	314	11,858	...	12,172	1	1,931	122	863	498	3,800	730	28	2,647	847	310	11,777	395	15	1	44	20	16
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals ... (*Tahsildárs and Naib-Tahsildárs.*)	4,305	1,16,488	1	1,20,794	15	16,147	2,196	12,947	7,186	32,374	6,197	463	25,100	10,865	2,530	1,16,020	4,774	120	3	1,289	21	18
Districts Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts ... (*Assistant and Extra Assistant Commissioners.*)	4,033	48,350	8	52,391	20	8,733	776	3,441	2,365	10,494	3,572	376	11,780	5,607	1,263	48,437	3,904	160	79	1,272	29	25
Chief Courts of Districts ... (*Deputy Commissioners.*)	29	847	1	877	5	81	10	28	34	187	62	5	262	161	25	860	17	3	2	57	41	16
Superior Court of General Jurisdiction (*Chief Court.*) ...	...	9	...	9	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	5	4	2	2	...	85	65
TOTAL ...	9,590	2,18,937	11	2,28,535	42	33,002	3,267	21,620	12,704	58,879	14,331	1,053	47,758	21,364	4,375	2,18,395	10,140	300	87	2,966	21	17

IMPERIAL RETURN.

No. 9.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE BUSINESS OF THE CIVIL APPELLATE COURTS OF THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEAR 1871.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CLASS OF COURTS.	For disposal.						Heard ex-parte.			Contested.										
	Remaining from last year.	Instituted.	Received by transfer.	Total.	Transferred.	Dismissed for default, or under Sections 5 and 6, Act XXIII of 1861.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Confirmed.	Modified.	Reversed.	Remanded.	Total disposed of.	Pending at end of year.	Over two months.	Over four months.	Average duration.	Objections under Section 348, of Act VIII of 1859.	Objections allowed.
Appellate Courts, other than Chief Court of District ... (*Assistant Commissioners.*)	59	171	...	230	...	15	2	...	...	110	38	31	8	204	26	...	...	15	...	...
Chief Appellate Courts of Districts ... (*Deputy Commissioners.*)	639	7,851	...	8,490	2	524	666	23	59	4,347	488	1,129	828	8,066	424	19	1	27	3	3
TOTAL ...	698	8,022	...	8,720	2	539	668	23	59	4,457	526	1,160	836	8,270	450	19	1	27	3	3
Superior Appellate Courts ... *Commissioners.*	818	2,890	1	3,709	5	185	233	9	22	1,854	151	496	241	3,196	511	163	88	55	17	9
Additional Commissioners ...	117	1,050	...	1,167	...	95	62	6	3	581	58	183	146	1,134	33	6	19		1	...
TOTAL ...	935	3,940	1	4,876	5	280	295	15	25	2,435	209	679	387	4,330	544	169	107	55	18	9
Chief Court of Province, Regular ...	90	319	5	414	1	18	53	...	3	137	14	128	12	366	48	...	...	60	...	...
Chief Court of Province, Special ...	92	1,324	...	1,416	1	63	729	...	...	877	3	59	76	1,308	108	...	...	27	...	...
TOTAL ...	182	1,643	5	1,830	2	81	782	...	3	514	17	187	88	1,674	156	...	...	34	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,815	13,605	6	15,426	9	900	2,245	38	87	7,406	752	2,026	1,311	14,274	1,150	188	108	...	21	12

IMPERIAL RETURN.

No. 10.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE EXECUTION OF THE DECREES OF THE CIVIL COURTS OF THE PANJAB, DURING THE YEAR 1871.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
CLASS OF COURTS.	APPLICATIONS TO EXECUTE DECREES.											NATURE AND NUMBER OF COERCIVE PROCESSES ISSUED.					
	Pending.	Filed.	Received by transfer.	Total.	Decrees completely executed.	Decrees partially executed.	Decrees in which there was no execution.	Transferred.	Total disposed of.	Pending.	Number of cases in which specific performance was enforced.	Arrest of person.	*Moveable property.* Attached.	*Moveable property.* Sold.	*Immoveable property.* Attached.	*Immoveable property.* Sold.	Orders under Section 243 of Act VIII of 1859.
Small Cause Courts	854	21,314	151	22,319	6,726	7,485	7,087	258	21,556	763	222	3,241	7,410	2,556	...	...	...
Unpaid Local Tribunals (*Honorary Civil Judges.*)	482	4,583	7	5,072	2,143	1,050	1,367	1	4,521	551	88	26	1,639	478	310	68	...
Paid Sub-divisional Tribunals (*Tahsildárs and Naib-Tahsildárs.*)	6,017	50,567	352	56,936	25,438	12,090	13,295	152	50,975	5,961	453	1,503	16,087	3,908	2,824	716	2
District Courts other than Chief Courts of Districts (*Assistant and Extra Asst. Commissioners.*)	2,591	23,348	429	26,368	9,436	4,913	8,348	359	23,056	3,312	375	1,005	7,048	2,217	2,935	1,049	16
Chief Courts of Districts (*Deputy Commissioners.*)	62	634	14	710	220	68	225	19	632	78	4	16	275	68	90	42	1
TOTAL ...	10,006	1,00,446	953	1,11,405	43,963	25,666	30,322	789	1,00,740	10,665	1,142	5,791	32,459	9,227	6,159	1,875	19

Proceedings of the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor in the Home Department, No. 3900, dated 4th December 1872.

READ—

Report on the Administration of Civil Justice for the year 1871, furnished by the Chief Court, Punjab, dated 4th June 1872, received 4th July 1872.

RESOLUTION.—1. The Report on Civil Justice was received this year fairly early, though its review has been delayed owing to investigations instituted as to the growth and character of litigation in the province, and to delay in printing the report which was submitted in manuscript.

2. *Increase in the number of suits.*—The rapid increase of litigation which was remarked on last year still continues, the number of suits having risen to 218,354, being an increase of rather more than 8 per cent. over the numbers of 1870. Nor do these figures adequately represent the increase of litigation, for they do not include those cases for rent and rights in land which are heard in the Revenue Courts in those districts now under settlement. At the present time nine settlements are in progress, a larger number than has ever before been conducted at one time in the province, and the relief to the Civil Courts is thus proportionately greater than at any former time.

3. *Statistics of the decade.*—The following statements give the statistics for the past ten years:—

A.

Statement showing the Number of Revenue and Civil Suits instituted in the Punjab during 1862, 1863 *and* 1864.

	Classification of Suits.	1862.	1863.	1864.
Land.	Regular Revenue ...	31,670	26,216	31,151
	Summary do. ...	17,206	12,438	11,504
	Total Land Suits ...	48,876	38,654	42,655
Debt.	Suits between master and servant ...	1,147	1,485	1,593
	,, between landlord and tenant (houses) ...	1,302	1,365	1,491
	,, for breach of contract ...	796	918	741
	,, between partners ...	705	640	585
	Parole debts ...	21,484	22,775	25,914
	Debt on account ...	26,033	22,290	22,177
	,, on bond registered ...	3,809	4,735	5,348
	,, ,, unregistered ...	21,434	20,298	22,975
	Total Debt Suits ...	76,960	74,504	80,824
Miscellaneous.	Inheritance (Muhammadan law) ...	384	323	342
	Ditto (Hindu law) ...	244	250	175
	Ditto (other law) ...	34	42	67
	Adoption ...	35	11	31
	Partition ...	664	654	739
	Dower ...	88	103	93
	Mortgage ...	1,294	1,212	1,133
	Religious suits, connected with shrines, caste, &c. ...	74	67	86
	Claims to customary fees ...	196	209	218
	Suits founded on right of pre-emption ...	249	282	374
	Trespass direct (innovation, personal injury, &c.) ...	565	537	999
	Ditto indirect, (libel, nuisance, &c.) ...	828	1,069	1,227
	Marriage and betrothal cases ...	3,257	3,902	5,100
	Other claims to real property ...	5,005	4,695	6,246
	Ditto to personal do. ...	6,440	4,990	5,795
	Total Miscellaneous Suits ...	19,357	18,346	22,265
	Grand Total ...	145,193	131,504	145,744

B.

Statement showing the Number of Civil Suits disposed of in the Punjab in 1865 *and* 1866.

	Classification of Suits.	1865.	1866.
Land.	Regular Revenue ...	10,384	...
	Summary do. ...	3,834	...
	Inheritance (Muhammadan law) ...	282	595
	Ditto (Hindú law) ...	139	234
	Ditto (other law) ...	1,245	1,038
	Adoption ...	17	186
	Partition ...	1,372	1,805
	Suits between Mortgagor and Mortgagee ...	1,597	1,800
	,, founded on pre-emption ...	615	1,459
	,, between landlords and tenants ...	4,067	7,830
	Total Land Suits ...	23,552	14,947
Debt.	Suits between landlord and tenant ...	2,557	5,504
	,, between master and servant ...	1,859	2,901
	,, for breach of contract ...	1,281	1,081
	,, between partners ...	3,261	2,756
	Parole debts ...	30,639	34,032
	Debt on account ...	24,212	26,718
	,, on bond registered ...	6,822	7,438
	,, ,, unregistered ...	27,123	28,034
	Total Debt Suits ...	97,754	1,08,464
Miscellaneous.	Inheritance (Muhammadan law) ...	242	328
	Ditto (Hindú law) ...	161	210
	Ditto (other law) ...	411	365
	Adoption ...	66	202
	Partition ...	733	747
	Mortgage ...	864	918
	Pre-emption ...	326	484
	Dower ...	108	157
	Religious suits ...	67	99
	Customary fees ...	1,117	1,566
	Trespass direct (innovation, personal injury, &c.) ...	1,011	1,476
	Ditto indirect (libel, nuisance, &c.) ...	1,511	1,818
	Marriage and betrothal ...	5,695	5,941
	Other claims to real property ...	11,440	13,093
	,, ,, to personal do. ...	8,231	9,796
	Total Miscellaneous Suits ...	31,983	36,865
	Grand Total ...	153,289	160,276

C.

Statement showing the Number of Civil Suits disposed of in the Punjab from 1867 *to* 1871.

	Classification of Suits.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.
Land.	Inheritance (Muhammadan law)	749	615	282	196	285
	Ditto (Hindu law)	277	166	226	295	696
	Ditto (other law)	1,093	1,465	2,011	2,430	1,400
	Partition	1,546	1,149	1,035	1,308	1,299
	Mortgage	2,971	1,839	2,056	2,879	1,946
	Pre-emption	1,046	794	833	908	794
	Rent suits	11,159	10,184	8,636	6,302	5,570
	Tenancy cases			...	4,659	3,285
	Other cases			5,227	6,993	5,735
	Total Land Suits	18,841	16,212	20,306	25,970	21,010
Debt.	Rent (other than land)	2,045	2,118	2,353	2,507	2,083
	Partnership	1,346	586	512	785	496
	Breach of contract	813	1,359	1,285	1,425	1,734
	Parole debts	26,834	29,144	32,934	34,186	38,548
	Debt on account	27,731	34,293	37,270	47,821	53,041
	,, on bond registered	8,030	6,708	8,435	9,999	9,412
	,, ,, unregistered	27,319	34,002	41,673	51,527	65,679
	Total Debt Suits	[illegible]	108,210	124,462	148,250	170,993
Miscellaneous.	Inheritance (Muhammadan law)	275	287	128	104	149
	Ditto (Hindu law)	143	218	183	451	299
	Ditto (other law)	762	516	567	1,113	308
	Adoption	[illegible]	28	21	24	35
	Marriage, dower, and divorce	4,460	3,566	3,104	3,791	3,711
	Partition	811	600	601	432	278
	Mortgage	1,075	980	682	928	761
	Pre-emption	266	197	252	345	217
	Religion and caste	27	14	10	18	23
	Trusts and religious endowments	42	58	75	53	74
	Damages	3,913	3,514	3,286	3,330	2,643
	Other claims	20,798	18,299	15,514	17,261	17,853
	Total Miscellaneous Suits	32,654	28,277	24,423	27,900	26,351
	Grand Total	145,583	1,52,699	169,191	202,120	218,354

Statement showing the Litigation of the Courts for the Ten Years 1862—1871.

	Classification of Suits.	1862.	1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871.
Land.	Revenue, Regular	31,670	26,216	31,151	10,384	...	...	...	...	...	...
	,, Summary	17,206	12,438	11,504	3,834	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Inheritance	...	...	...	1,666	1,867	2,119	2,246	2,519	2,921	2,381
	Partition	..	...	...	1,372	1,805	1,546	1,149	1,035	1,308	1,299
	Mortgage	...	...	...	1,597	1,800	2,971	1,839	2,056	2,879	1,946
	Pre-emption	...	...	...	615	1,459	1,046	794	833	908	794
	Rent	..	...	...	4,06[illegible]	7,830	11,159	10,184	8,636	6,302	5,570
	Tenancy	...	...	...						4,659	3,285
	Other cases	...	...	...	17	186	...	...	5,227	6,993	5,735
	Total Land Suits ...	48,876	38,654	42,655	23,552	14,947	18,841	16,212	20,306	25,970	21,010
Debt.	Rent	1,302	1,365	1,491	2,557	5,504	2,045	2,118	2,353	2,507	2,083
	Partnership	705	640	585	3,261	2,756	1,346	586	512	785	496
	Breach of contract	796	916	741	1,281	1,081	813	1,359	1,285	1,425	1,734
	Parole debts	21,434	22,775	25,914	30,639	34,032	26,834	29,144	32,934	34,186	38,548
	Debt on account	26,333	22,290	22,177	24,212	26,718	27,731	34,293	37,270	47,821	53,041
	,, bonds registered	3,809	4,735	5,348	6,822	7,438	8,000	6,708	8,435	9,999	9,112
	,, ,, unregistered	21,434	20,295	22,976	27,923	28,034	27,319	34,002	41,673	51,597	65,679
	Other cases	1,147	1,485	1,593	1,859	2,901	...	...	...	...	...
	Total Debt Suits ...	76,960	74,504	80,824	97,754	108,464	94,088	108,210	124,462	148,250	170,993
Miscellaneous.	Inheritance	662	615	584	814	898	1,180	1,021	878	1,668	756
	Adoption...	35	11	31	66	202	52	28	21	24	35
	Marriage, dower and divorce	3,345	1,695	5,193	5,803	6,098	4,460	3,566	3,104	3,791	3,711
	Partition...	664	654	739	733	747	811	600	601	482	278
	Mortgage	1,294	1,212	1,133	864	918	1,075	980	682	928	761
	Pre-emption	249	282	374	326	484	266	197	252	345	217
	Religious suits	71	67	86	67	99	69	72	85	71	97
	Damages...	1,393	1,606	1,866	2,522	3,294	3,913	3,514	3,286	3,330	2,643
	Other claims	11,641	9,894	14,259	20,788	24,125	20,798	18,299	15,514	17,261	17,853
	Total Miscellaneous Suits ...	19,357	15,946	22,265	31,983	36,865	32,654	28,277	24,423	27,900	26,351
	Grand Total ...	145,193	131,104	145,744	153,289	160,276	145,583	152,699	169,191	202,120	218,354

E.

Abstract of the litigation of the Punjab for the ten years 1862—1871.

Year.	Land Suits.	Debt Suits.	Miscellaneous Suits.	Total.
1862	48,876	76,960	19,357	145,193
1863	38,654	74,504	18,346	131,504
1864	42,655	80,824	22,265	145,744
1865	23,552	97,754	31,983	153,289
1866	14,947	108,464	36,865	160,276
1867	18,841	94,088	32,654	145,583
1868	16,212	108,212	28,277	152,699
1869	20,306	124,642	24,423	169,191
1870	25,970	148,250	27,900	202,120
1871	21,010	170,993	26,351	218,354

These statements will not be understood without explanation. For purposes of analysis, the decade from 1862 to 1871, both years inclusive, has been divided into three distinct periods—the first comprising the years 1862—1864 the second, the years 1865 and 1866, and the third, 1867—1871. The Statements A, B and C. give an analysis of the litigation in each of these periods, Statement D shows the general results of the ten years in some detail, and Statement E contains an abstract of the whole.

4. *The first period,* 1862—1864.—The differences of classification which prevailed during these three periods make accurate comparison difficult and almost impossible. During the first period the classification is made of the number of suits *instituted,* while in subsequent years it is of the number *disposed of.* Revenue Suits, regular and summary, were heard in the Revenue, not the Civil, Courts, and the statistics have consequently been taken from the reports of the Financial Commissioner, which are prepared by the financial year, while the Civil statistics are prepared by the calendar year.

5. *The second period,* 1865—1866.—In the second period large classes of cases were transferred from the Revenue to the Civil Courts, the former, under the operation of Act XIX. of 1865 (the Punjab Courts' Act), ceasing to exist, except in districts under settlement. This led to a slight change of classification of suits, and many cases which in the previous years would have come under the general category of "Land cases" now became "Miscellaneous suits." This change was in operation for only the last eight months of 1865,—during the first four months of that year, *i. e.,* the last four months of 1864-65, the old Revenue Courts remaining open. It is not possible to ascertain what work was done in those particular four months, and the figures entered are one-third of the total for 1864-65.

6. *The third period,* 1867—1871.—The last period is that in which the extremely elaborate and difficult classification prescribed by the Calcutta Statistical Committee has been in force. This differs so widely from the classification which before obtained, that satisfactory comparison with the previous years is not possible. The analysis in Statement C. gives, however, a sufficiently close comparison from general conclusions, in which exactness is not required. The present classification is, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, too elaborate for practical working. Some of the headings are obscure, officers are unable to decide in what class to place a particular suit, and native officials, to whom the duty of classification generally falls, possess neither the education nor technical knowledge to enable them to perceive those nice distinctions determining the nature of a suit which are clear and precise to the mind of a trained jurist alone.

7. *Disturbing elements in the statistics.*—Independent of the changes in classification which have made comparison difficult, the absence of reliable figures showing the amount of work in the Settlement Courts for the years under review still further complicates the question. No Settlement suits are shown in the present statistics, yet in those districts under settlement all suits connected with land or rent or produce of land being heard in the Settlement

Courts, it follows that with the increase in the number of districts under settlement the number of land suits heard in such Courts will increase, the large majority being cases which would, but for the institution of Settlement operations, have been heard in the ordinary Civil Courts and have swelled the Civil statistics. There would of course be a proportion which would not have been instituted except under this stimulus of the settlement, but what this proportion may be it is impossible to say. This consideration will explain to a certain extent the great diminution in land suits since 1861.

8. *Settlement and Land Suits.*—During the year 1871 the amount of Settlement judicial work, including ordinary suits for rights in land, amounted to 11,991 cases; of these 10,620 were for rights in land, and 1,371 were rent suits and suits under the Punjab Tenancy Act. Besides these cases there were a large number of suits having reference to the rights of individuals, Lambardárs, Patwáris, or others, which would, under the rules in force previous to 1865, have been heard as summary suits in the Revenue Courts.

The number of districts under settlement has in the last few years largely increased, and the proportion of cases taken out of the Civil Courts into the Settlement Courts is far greater than was the case in 1862-63-64. This accounts partly for the marked difference in the number of land suits shown in the last-named years and in more recent years. Another cause for the recent decrease is found in the change of classification which, as before stated, shows as "Miscellaneous suits" a number of cases which would, previous to 1865, have been included as "Land suits." It will thus be seen that the great and sudden diminution in the number of Land suits in 1865 is to a certain extent counterbalanced by an increase in the number of Miscellaneous suits in the same year. A more important cause even than this came into operation in the year 1865, when the suits previously known as summary were altogether abolished, and no special procedure took their place. It is true that the procedure ordinarily in force in Summary Revenue proceedings differed but little, either as being more tedious or complex, from that which obtains in the ordinary Civil suit. Some advantage in speed and simplicity there was, while the stamp on the institution of the Summary suit was so much smaller than that required in a regular suit as to largely encourage the institution of this class of case. The consequence of the abolition of the Summary suit was an immediate fall in the total number of suits connected with land.

9. *The constancy of this class of suits.*—The Lieutenant-Governor considers that it may be assumed, allowing for differences of classification, that suits for land have not increased in nearly the same proportion as other descriptions of cases. The average has remained pretty constant, fluctuating within certain fixed limits from one year to another. It is probable, His Honor observes, that the necessity for instituting claims for rights in land diminishes with the completion of the regular settlement of a district; all claims are then tested, accepted or denied, and a careful record of rights is formed, with the full knowledge and consent of the persons affected. Doubtful and dormant rights are investigated, and little remains, or should remain, after a thorough settlement by a competent officer, which it should be necessary to refer to the decision of a Civil Court. Year by year suits for land lose the special character which they had before the settlement, and take the form of suits for inheritance decided according to Hindu or Muhammadan law, or the custom of the country as ordinary Civil suits.

10. *Conclusions from Land and Miscellaneous statistics doubtful.*—The Lieutenant-Governor does not consider that it would be wise to attempt to draw any very definite conclusions from the statistics classed under "Land" and "Miscellaneous." There is, however, a far more important class of cases than either of these, as showing the steady advance of the Province in litigation, and proving how slightly and temporarily that advance is affected by causes which have sometimes been supposed to have had the deepest and most permanent influence. These are suits for Debt, for rent other than the rent of land, bonds, registered and unregistered, simple parole and accounts debts, which together form the great bulk of the litigation of the Punjab.

11. *The value of the statistics of suits for Debt.*—It will be observed that this class of suits has risen from 76,960 in the year 1862 to 170,993 in 1871. This increase, checked to a small extent in 1863, and in a more striking manner in 1867, owing to a special cause to which allusion will hereafter be made, has been on the whole constant, although the rate of progression has been quicker during the last three years. In the classification of these suits far less difference exists than in Land and Miscellaneous suits, and the increase or decrease in their number must form the best, if not the only, test which Civil judicial statistics can furnish of the increasing prosperity and energy or of the decay and apathy of the population.

12. *The causes which influence the increase.*—The rapidity with which suits for debt have increased in the Punjab renders it, in the opinion of His Honor, desirable to note, so far as may be possible, the causes which influence the increase or decrease of litigation, and to endeavour to determine whether the increase be temporary or permanent in its nature. It is also necessary to determine if the total amount is excessive with reference to the number and wealth of the people, whether the rate at which it is increasing is dangerous or demoralising, and whether there is a limit in a settled Indian Province to which litigation will surely rise, remaining there stationary, or only increasing slowly with the annual increase in the numbers of the population.

13. *Growth of population.*—Putting aside all other causes influencing the increase or decrease in the number of the institutions of suits, it might be asserted that the growth of the population sufficiently accounts for a proportionate increase in litigation. This cause might be supposed materially to affect the Punjab statistics. The population has been growing rapidly, and at the present time, from calculations based on the census of 1868, numbers about nineteen millions, being a probable increase of over three millions within the decade. But the Lieutenant-Governor believes that conclusions affecting litigation drawn from this increase would probably be erroneous; the growth of the population has not progressed, decade after decade, in arithmetical ratio. Previous to the annexation of the country all those causes which tend to directly diminish or to indirectly prevent the increase of the population were in full operation. Insecurity of life and property; neglect of all sanitary rules; constant war; famine, with no State interference to diminish starvation and death; the great uncertainty of rights in land, making its value little more than nominal and preventing the extension of cultivation and the production of more food to supply a larger population—these and similar causes hindered the growth of the population, which has only within the last twenty years commenced rapidly to increase. The larger numbers of 1872 have thus influenced in but a small degree the judicial statistics, for the true addition has been in those not yet adult and consequently who have not yet taken any personal share in the litigation of the province. The effect of the increase of population since British rule is only now beginning to appear in the judicial statistics, and will each year have a greater effect.

14. *The effect of settled administration.*—The annexation of the Punjab and the introduction of regular Courts of law has had other results. It may, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, be fairly assumed that when judicial tribunals are first established in a country which has before enjoyed no judicial system whatever numerous claims which had not before been pressed, and which private arrangement and arbitration were powerless to satisfy, would at once be instituted. The duration of this cause would only be temporary, though it might extend over a considerable period of time. For purposes of comparison the statistics of the Dehli and Hissár Divisions, which have long been under British rule, and which were only placed under the Punjab Government in 1858, are instructive; but the conclusions drawn from them require to be received with caution. In one District of this tract alone, Gurgaon, has litigation remained stationary; in Sirsa the increase has been small; while in the other four districts the percentage of increase does not much differ from that elsewhere. But the principal increase has been in the last two years, and the suits in 1868 and 1869 were little in excess of those instituted in 1862. Putting the last two years aside, as containing some special cause, hereafter to be noticed, which has had

a general effect in stimulating litigation, the old settled districts appear to the Lieutenant-Governor to be far less litigious than the districts of the Punjab proper. It must be remembered, in confirmation of this view, that no Settlements having within the whole period been undertaken in the districts of the Dehli and Hissár Divisions, the whole litigation connected with the land, which has elsewhere been thrown into the Settlement Courts, is in these Divisions entirely shown in the Civil statistics. The fact that there had been time for litigation to work itself out may have greatly contributed to the present non-litigious character of the Dehli and Hissár Divisions. Having long been under British administration, and regular procedure having been long enforced, doubtful rights and claims had been decided or barred by limitation previous to the commencement of the decade under review.

15. *The effect of the mutinies on the Dehli territory.*—The influence of the mutinies of 1857 did not cease for many years to affect this tract of country, and notably the city of Dehli. Depopulated in 1857, and its trade ruined, it was long before Dehli recovered itself, if indeed it has yet done so. But its progress during the past few years has been rapid in the extreme. The population is fast increasing, wealth is again accumulating, and Dehli is once more becoming the most important commercial city in Northern India. The prosperity or decline of a large city will necessarily have a marked effect upon the litigation of the surrounding country, which is intimately connected with the town in all its business transactions, and the renewed prosperity of Dehli must be held to contribute its share to the increase of litigation in the neighbourhood.

16. *Character of the people.*—Nor should the difference in the character of the several races inhabiting the Punjab be overlooked in discussing the causes influencing litigation. The number of suits in the frontier Districts is small compared with the number instituted in the interior districts of the Punjab, and the rate of increase is considerably less. This is most marked in the Hazára District, where the Debt institutions can scarcely be said to have increased during the last ten years. In Pesháwar the increase is not much below that which has taken place elsewhere, but the special cause of this must be found in the rising importance of the city of Pesháwar as a commercial centre, and the institution of a Small Cause Court, which has itself absorbed almost exactly one-half the entire Civil litigation of the district. But it is the agricultural Cis-Indus districts inhabited by the Jat races which have chiefly contributed to the higher returns of late years—Lahore, Amritsar, Firozpúr, Siálkot, Hoshiárpúr, Jálandhar, Kangra, and Gurdáspur; and the explanation of this is, in part, found in the character of the people, although the superior wealth and multiplied transactions of these rich districts, compared with the poorer districts of the frontier, must still be held to have the chief influence in determining the amount and progressive increase of litigation.

17. *The character of the seasons hardly affects litigation.*—The natural influence which appears from the recorded opinions of Judicial Officers for a series of years to have been held to most affect the development of litigation is the character of the seasons as shown in the abundance or scarcity of the harvest. But the statistics now given show clearly, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, that this influence is much less important than has hitherto been supposed. Those classes of suits which must be assumed to be most affected by the seasons, and which represent the relations between the agriculturists and the village money-lenders, show a steady and rapid development, and no such connection between scarcity and litigation is proved as exists between scarcity and crime, which rises and falls in almost exact proportion to the rise and fall in the price of food. No accurate analysis of the various ways in which scarcity or plenty affects the Civil Courts seems, however, to have been attempted; and, although in the annual reports the character of the season is constantly referred to as influencing litigation, it is spoken of by one officer as increasing and by another as diminishing it. Exactly opposite results are attributed to the same cause. Even in the present Report the Lieutenant-Governor observes in para. 6 the increase of cases attributed to good harvests in the Hazára District; in para. 9 the increase in the neighbouring

District of Peshâwar is attributed to a falling-off in agricultural prosperity; in Lahore the increase is in part ascribed to a bad season, and in Jálandhar to continued prosperity.

18. *The effects of scarcity.*—Although there can be no doubt that scarcity may both stimulate and check litigation, yet the Lieutenant-Governor believes that it does this in a very partial manner. Those suits which are more luxuries than necessaries—suits regarding betrothal or marriage, rights which may be dormant without prejudice from the limitation law,—are postponed to a more prosperous season. But the Lieutenant-Governor considers that the present statistics indisputably prove that the main stream of litigation flows steadily on, and that the more general causes which encourage litigation in the increasing wealth and enterprise of the people are so powerful as to throw altogether into the shade the influence of the seasons which may check or stimulate the litigation of a particular district, but which is inappreciable in the general returns of the Province. This might indeed be expected to be the case. Famine and scarcity are never universal; high prices, which mean distress to some classes, are the cause of wealth to others; the sufferings of one tract are counterbalanced by the prosperity of another, which prosperity is in itself due to the demand for the surplus produce of the favored districts to supply the wants of those suffering from famine.

19. *The statistics of the last five years.*—If scarcity ever exercises a great and general influence on litigation, the statistics of the last five years should show it distinctly. Those years may be divided into three periods of decline, of extreme depression, and of recovery. The first two bad years were 1867 and 1868, when the harvests in the southern districts were far below the average. 1869 was, if distress be the criterion, a year of famine, although the exertions of the Government and its officers prevented any direct mortality from want. Prices rose to almost prohibitory rates,—higher indeed than they had ever been known in the Province in the famine year of 1860-61. And although, in the northern and sub-montane districts, or where canal irrigation was available, agriculturists made large profits, the distress was extreme in the southern and south-western districts; the property of the cultivators was sold for food, the cattle died for want of fodder, and the savings of former prosperous years were, in the third year of scarcity, absolutely exhausted. Credit was also no longer granted by the village money-lenders, and another bad season would have entailed the most disastrous consequences on the country, and have taxed to the utmost the resources of the Government. But the year 1869 was fortunately the last of the bad seasons; in 1870 and 1871 the country slowly recovered its strength; harvests not generally abundant, but average in quantity, enriched the cultivators, as prices remained high, and in a short time most of the traces of the past distress had disappeared. But search is in vain made in the judicial statistics for any trace of the trial through which the Province had passed. If the total amount of litigation or the number of institutions for debt be considered, the conclusion would be that the period from 1867 to 1871 was one of uninterrupted prosperity; for the Lieutenant-Governor cannot allow that a continuous increase in litigation can signify both prosperity and distress, and the progress has been steady through years of both scarcity and abundance.

20. *Special causes affecting litigation.*—The increase of the last two years has been more striking than in any former period, and this is in part due to artificial causes,—chief of these being new legislation.

21. *The effect of the Stamp Act.*—On the 1st April 1870 the Court Fees' Act, revising the stamp duties on the institution of suits and appeals, came into operation. The cost of litigation was by this Act much reduced, and its immediate effect was shown in an increase in the number of institutions greater than had before been known in the Province. The rate of increase during the past year is only 7·8 per cent., against 25 per cent. in the preceding year, and the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason to believe that litigation will again increase in the ratio of 1870, unless special legislation interferes with its natural development.

22. *The Punjab Courts' Act and Limitation Act.*—The effect of special legislation is shown in a marked manner in 1865, when the summary revenue suits were abolished, and the number of cases connected with land at once largely decreased; also in 1869, when the Limitation Act (XIV. of 1859) was first extended to the Punjab, and suits on bonds, registered and unregistered, increased by 25 per cent. and 22 per cent. respectively. Part of this may have been due to other causes, but the chief portion of the increase of 1869 was undoubtedly occasioned by special legislation, in the same manner as that of 1870 was due to the reduction in the expenses of the institution of suits.

23. *Small Cause Courts.*—Courts of Small Causes have a tendency to stimulate litigation from the simplicity and cheapness of the procedure. The great majority of cases are of a very simple character, judgment is quickly given, and many creditors who, under a more complicated and lengthy procedure, would not sue at all or only after repeated failure to settle their claims by private arrangement, institute proceedings in the Small Cause Courts without hesitation. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that these Courts may be extended with advantage, although, no appeal from their decision being allowed, it may be necessary to suggest greater facilities for revision of judgment and supervision by superior authority. The effect of the presence of a large European community upon this class of litigation, and the new and complicated relations which higher civilization necessarily brings with it between employers and employed, are shown in the fact that the number of institutions at Lahore, which is not a commercial town, is far larger than at either Amritsar or Dehli, which are both centres of trade, and contain a larger population.

24. *Conclusions drawn from the statistics.*—The Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to believe that the increase in the number of civil suits in the province is a permanent, and not a temporary, one. The causes which have mainly influenced this increase during the past decade are still, the Limitation Act alone excluded, in full operation. Whether the increase will be in the same ratio as in the past it is less easy to predict. On the one hand it may be urged that twenty years of British rule have allowed old claims to be adjusted, dormant rights to be asserted, and granted or finally denied, and that the progress of the country, and, what accompanies progress, but does not share its nature, the disintegration of society, will not take place as rapidly in the future as it has in the past. The danger and doubt which belong to all changes have grown less, or have become more clearly defined, and the Province has accepted the new order of things as final, even if it does not altogether approve it.

But, on the other hand, it must be considered that twenty years is but a short time in the development of a country; that so much remains to be done that past progress appears to have differed little from standing still; that wealth and population increase, under moderate taxation and equal laws and abundant markets, with a rapidity which leaves all estimates behind; that increased facilities for litigation, better and cheaper courts, a more precise and intelligible procedure, are all incentives to litigation; that pleaders, who, under the existing system, create litigation, are everywhere multiplying, and that the introduction of English civilization, by making all relations of life more complicated, feeds the law courts with a class of suits which would in a simpler form of society be impossible.

25. *Is the increase of litigation an evil?*—The Lieutenant-Governor would however hesitate before pronouncing the rapid growth of litigation in the Punjab to be a positive evil. The greater portion of it is indeed due to the operation of causes beyond the control of the Government, whose action has nevertheless in a marked degree stimulated litigation by reducing its cost. But this would appear to have been no more than the duty of an enlightened Government providing that the people obtain cheap and speedy justice. If it be an error, it can at once be rectified by again raising the cost of legal processes, when the number of institutions will undoubtedly decline. But the Lieutenant-Governor holds that the reduction of the expense of suits was right, and, believing this, he cannot assert that its immediate result in the increase of litigation is to be deplored. He would however suggest that the large surplus

from the receipts of the Civil Courts, amounting during the past financial year to upwards of 1½ lakhs of rupees, be applied to the improvement of the Courts and the employment of additional judicial officers, whom the excessive work has made absolutely necessary, and that fees for justice should cease to form an item of the general revenue. But if the people crowd the courts, if, as in the Punjab, they show confidence in the decisions of the judges, if their claims upon the Government for increased facilities for obtaining justice are ever more loud, it is impossible to ignore or deny these claims, or to close the courts to petitioners from a theoretical belief that excessive litigation is a calamity to be, if possible, averted. The question whether the litigation is excessive is, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, a doubtful one. Excessive it no doubt is when the paucity of judicial officers is considered, but the population of the Punjab being nineteen millions, 260,000 civil suits in the year, the majority being of the most simple nature and for the most trifling amounts, does not appear excessive.

26. *Increase of the judicial staff indispensable.*—The statistics, whatever they fail to prove, show the necessity for a large and immediate increase in the judicial agency of the Punjab. In this Province there can be no question, the Lieutenant-Governor believes, that the executive branch of the administration should be strong and efficient; that Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners should thoroughly know their divisions and districts, and hold them in that full control which complete knowledge of the country and the people alone can give; and the perfect working of the Law Courts will not compensate for a weak and inefficient executive. But the pressure of judicial duties has so increased as to become a grave danger. Deputy Commissioners have grown to be little more than Appellate Judges; and Tahsildárs, whose duties should be purely executive and revenue, are unable to leave their courts, and, with the Naib Tahsildárs, dispose of 53 per cent. of the whole civil judicial work of the Province.

27. *The system of appeal.*—The existing system of appeal is considered by many whose opinions are entitled to the greatest weight to place upon District Officers an unnecessary burthen, and it is suggested that to limit the right of appeal is the most effectual means of relief. There is, the Lieutenant-Governor would observe, no doubt that such a limitation would relieve Deputy Commissioners from the work which now chiefly embarrasses them, but he is disposed to doubt the policy of discouraging or prohibiting appeals. It is always possible by prohibitive rates or by diminishing the number of Courts to set free the executive officers, but the only thing for the Government to decide is the best way of meeting an admitted difficulty. The arguments against an extended system of appeal are, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, strong ones. The courts of first instance, presided over by native judges, are presumably as competent to decide the simple issues of fact, with which the majority of suits are alone concerned, as the higher courts, presided over by foreigners with less knowledge of the people, and with the evidence on which to form a conclusion at second hand. The Courts of Commissioners have no inherent superiority over the courts of Deputy Commissioners. The appeal may indeed be from a more efficient to a less efficient officer, from one who has enjoyed a special legal training to one whose legal acquirements are insignificant, and who may have been selected from the possession of qualities specially valuable in a high executive officer, but which are quite distinct from or even opposed to those required in a Civil Judge. But the admission of arguments such as these will not, the Lieutenant-Governor considers, lessen the significance of the fact that the right of appeal is most popular with the native community in the Punjab, and that they would see its indiscriminate restriction with much disquietude; while the absence of an educated bar and an independent public opinion gives to the free power of appeal an exceptional value in stimulating indolent judges to exertion, and in keeping honest those who without some restraining influence would be corrupt. Improvements in the present system are however quite feasible, and the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that the proposals from time to time made for the limitation of the special appeal are deserving of careful consideration, there being no reason that errors of law should be corrected while errors of fact remain unredressed, while there are probably very few natives in the country

who understand the nature of a special appeal at all. To comprehend the distinction between a special and ordinary appeal a technical education is essential, and the consequent result is the undue multiplication of cases which require the assistance of pleaders. It certainly is little advantage to the great majority of the people, and extended and well-defined powers of reference and revision will allow the highest Court of Judicature to maintain sufficient uniformity in the administration of the law by the subordinate Courts.

28. *Pleaders.*—The free power of appeal, which operates, in the absence of other checks, to ensure the efficiency and honesty of the Bench, is not represented by any corresponding influence so far as the Bar, and more especially the Native Bar, is concerned; and the Lieutenant-Governor considers that it will be very desirable to place this under more complete supervision and control than is at present the case. The number of pleaders in the Provincial Courts is fast increasing. There is no machinery, beyond one pass examination, to ensure their obtaining the necessary legal training, and this examination proves little or nothing. Indeed the dishonesty attaching to these tests was so great that it has been necessary to abolish all examinations except at the Head-Quarters of the Province, where the questions are dictated to the candidates from a manuscript copy which has not been out of the examiner's possession. The ignorance and shallowness of the majority of pleaders in the Punjab is such that they are more a hindrance than an assistance to the courts in which they practise. Complaints of the extravagant demands for fees from suitors are heard on every side, and the Lieutenant-Governor would see with pleasure some rule introduced, if it were possible, by which fees for service in civil suits were limited far more strictly than at present. He is also of opinion that all pleadings in the courts should be conducted in the vernacular, and that the use of English should be altogether prohibited. This would, at any rate, enable parties to a suit to understand the proceedings, which is not now the case,—suitors considering that after the fee is paid to a pleader nothing further remains to be done but to await the issue, which appears to them either dependent upon chance, or upon the personal influence which the counsel is supposed to possess with the presiding judge. Nor would such a rule have any practical inconvenience; for in most cases issues of fact alone are raised; and it is advisable to discourage as much as possible the technical discussion of points of law and the introduction of rulings and precedents drawn from the English Courts. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has a full conviction that some radical reform in the system of pleading in the Punjab Courts is needed, and he will be ready to carefully consider any suggestion that the Judges of the Chief Court may furnish on the subject. The present race of pleaders is a positive scourge to the country and a danger to the administration, while they impede the courts which they should assist. The Lieutenant-Governor is of opinion that all persons going up for examinations as pleaders in the Chief or Subordinate Courts should furnish a certificate that they have attended such courses of legal lectures as the Judges of the Chief Court think sufficient to ensure efficiency. A law lectureship has been established in connection with the Punjab University College. This might, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, be developed into a means of furnishing a complete legal education,—separate lecturers being appointed for the several branches of law, and all candidates for pleaderships being compelled to come to Lahore for study. There could, His Honor observes, be no hardship in this. If the Government by admitting a person to plead in its law Courts provides him with a profession in which he may obtain competence and often wealth, it is bound in the interests of the people to insist that the pleader shall be both competent and honest. It is infinitely better to have no pleaders at all than as, at present, to have them ignorant and corrupt. Any scheme such as that alluded to the Lieutenant-Governor would be prepared to further with pecuniary assistance from fees received from the candidates for examination. He is not prepared to take action without the advice and co-operation of the learned Judges of the Chief Court, but these have been so uniformly given to strengthen the administration and improve the condition of the Courts that he has every confidence that their experience and assistance will be freely given in this matter.

29. *Working of the Courts during the year.*—The Lieutenant-Governor considers that the several Courts of the Punjab have during the year worked well, and have disposed of the greatly increased number of cases with commendable promptitude,—the number of cases pending at the end of the year being extremely moderate. The average duration of cases has risen; but it is owing, the Judges of the Civil Court seem to believe, to increased care in their preparation and in the calculation of their duration; and this explanation appears satisfactory. The number of cases disposed of by Tahsíldárs and Naib Tahsíldárs is exceedingly large, and the Lieutenant-Governor considers it undesirable that officers on pay so low as that of Naib Tahsíldárs should dispose of civil cases at all. The pressure of civil work has, however, been such that the investment of Naib Tahsíldárs with judicial powers became absolutely necessary.

30. His Honor observes with satisfaction the continued favorable testimony borne to the work of Honorary Civil Judges, who have disposed of a large number of suits. His Honor is prepared to extend this agency wherever men of family, character and education can be found to undertake the duties. There are many districts in which the Lieutenant-Governor believes the system might be extended with great advantage.

31. The existing system of arbitration, by which the award given is final, continues to afford proof of being unpopular,—the number of cases so referred having again declined. That arbitration is, however, specially suitable to a Province like the Punjab, where so many of the cases are of a simple nature and small value, the Lieutenant-Governor is convinced, and he thinks it matter for consideration whether some amendment should not be proposed in the existing law making the decision of arbitrators liable, like any other decision, to appeal. This was formerly the rule in the Punjab, and it worked well, securing the experience and local knowledge of the arbitrators, while removing the danger of partiality or corruption, which now makes the people unwilling to refer the decision of their cases to this agency.

32. His Honor concurs in the remarks of the Judges as to the system of issuing commissions to Tahsildárs and Naib Tahsildárs, and approves the issue of orders that the issue of such commissions be not permitted without the sanction of the Deputy Commissioner of the District. Tahsildárs and Naib Tahsildárs are at the present time overburdened with work, and the practice of issuing commissions to them in civil cases is productive of great inconvenience.

33. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe that the subject of the execution of decrees has received so much attention during the past year. He does not, however, think the matter has yet been put on a satisfactory footing, and, indeed, can hardly hope that this will be the case until some degree of re-organization of the judicial service is accomplished. The subject is one of extreme importance, and affects more than any other the popularity of the Courts.

34. With reference to the remarks of the Judges in para. 83 of the Report, rules drawn up by them for preventing the sale of the houses and implements of agriculturists have been sanctioned by the local Government during the year, and will, no doubt, have a good effect.

35. The state of the Deputy Commissioners' files of appeals at the close of the year is creditable, and the Lieutenant-Governor notices with pleasure the large reduction of arrears in the Bunnu and Firozpúr Districts. The Lieutenant-Governor generally concurs in the remarks of the Judges in para. 168 as to the existing system of appeal. The number of appeals instituted certainly does not appear to point to any abuse of the privilege, or to any urgent necessity to limit its exercise.

36. In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor would express his acknowledgments to the learned Judges of the Chief Court for the manner in which they have controlled and supervised the working of the Subordinate Courts in the Province during the past year, and for the efforts they have made to raise their standard of efficiency.

ORDERED that the foregoing remarks be published in the Supplement to the *Punjab Government Gazette.*

Also, that a copy be forwarded to the Registrar of the Chief Court, Punjab, for the information of the Judges, and for circulation with the Report.

By order of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor,

LEPEL GRIFFIN,

Offg. Secretary to Government, Punjab.